FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 APRIL 1983

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi Missile Attack — The Iraqis fired three missiles at Dezful, killing 10 people and wounding 60 others, IRNA reported on 20 April. In a message broadcast by Tehran radio, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i said Iran would not retaliate against Iraqi civilians but would use its right of "legitimate defense" to respond to "this brutal aggression and savage attack." While Khamene'i denied that Iran has shelled Iraqi civilian areas, an Iraqi communique carried earlier by INA said the Iranians continued to shell Basra and Mandali.

Islamic Mediation — The Islamic conference which recently convened in Baghdad is "doomed to failure" and is a "caricature to help Saddam's efforts to gain some kind of religious prestige," Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi declared in a Tehran radio interview. When a regime that has worked against Islam for many years convenes an Islamic conference, "other plots could be hidden behind this," Musavi warned. Meanwhile, INA reported that the "peace and reconciliation committee" set up by the conference had requested permission to visit Iran and also called on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to stop media campaigns while mediation efforts are under way. At a Baghdad press conference reported by INA, the Iraqi culture and information minister announced that Iraq agrees in advance to any decisions the conference may adopt. He reaffirmed Iraq's readiness to cease fire if Iran also agrees to end the fighting.

Oil Slick Talks

Iran has withdrawn its agreement to attend an emergency meeting of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment in Muscat on 26 April, KUNA reported.

Lebanon

Salim Press Conference — Foreign Minister Elie Salim, speaking at a press conference reported by Beirut radio, cautioned against anyone trying to "exploit" the recent bombing of the U.S. Embassy for political ends. He asserted that such tragedies could be prevented only when Lebanon fully regains authority over all its territory and when its security becomes exclusively the concern of the Lebanese themselves. Lebanon cannot be fully responsible for its security so long as foreign forces are occupying its territory, he added. Salim said the negotiations with Israel are proceeding slowly and stressed that the Lebanese question should not be linked to any other issue in the Middle East.

Tripartite Negotiations — Israel insists on its demand that Major Sa'd Haddad head the territorial brigade in southern Lebanon, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told presidential envoy Philip Habib, according to IDF Radio. Another issue still to be resolved at the talks is the role of the UNIFIL forces in ensuring security in southern Lebanon, the radio said.

Security Situation — Two Israeli soldiers and all four members of a "terrorist gang" were killed in a clash south of the Beirut-Damascus Highway, Jerusalem radio reported on 21 April.

Arab Reaction to Bombing — Asserting that Israel has "exploited" the U.S. Embassy bombing to support its demands in Lebanon, Damascus radio said in a commentary that the Israelis are the "only party" benefiting from the attack, which came "as if recommended by them." Allegations of possible Israeli involvement continued from various Middle Eastern sources. "It has become certain" that Israel's hand was behind the blast, according to the Jordanian paper AR-RA'Y as quoted by Amman radio. A Riyadh radio commentary claimed that the "dirty figures of the Mosad are the real planners and executors" of the deed.

PLO Affairs

After meeting with Hungarian leader Janos Kadar in Budapest, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat flew to Bucharest for talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, according to Budapest radio and AGERPRES. 'Arafat agreed with the Hungarians and Romanians that Middle East peace talks should occur within the framework of an international conference attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO, the sources noted. At a press conference in Hungary reported by Budapest radio, 'Arafat denied that the PLO had received any ultimatum from Jordan last month and said the PLO respects the Jordanian view, "although we do not accept it." He claimed the question of Palestinian representation was not discussed during his talks with King Husayn. Asked about the planned emergency Arab summit conference, 'Arafat said the summit should occur "within the next month" and should concentrate on preparing against a new military attack.

The PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) issued a joint statement in Damascus criticizing attempts to convene an Arab summit aimed at "relinquishing" previous summit resolutions on Palestinian rights and announcing that the PFLP and DFLP will firmly oppose any retreat from the recent PNC resolutions, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The statement also called for rectifying Palestinian-Syrian relations and for reviving the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

Earlier, a Palestinian official cited by the Kuwaiti paper Al-WATAN said PLO-Syrian coordination has intensified as a result of the imminence of a battle with Israel in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' valley. During his recent tour of PLO positions in Al-Biqa', PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir said the PLO and Lebanese resistance have decided to develop the quality and quantity of their guerrilla operations against the IDF, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio noted.

Israel

Israel is to seek "clarifications" from the United States about President Reagan's recent letter to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad reportedly urging negotiations for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights, according to THE JERUSALEM POST. Despite assurances from Washington that the letter merely reiterated long-standing American policy, Israeli officials are "uneasy" about the letter, which they believe may be an opening to expand the peace talks to embrace the Golan issue, the paper added. Israel still rejects the idea of exchanging territory for peace, Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir said, according to Jerusalem radio, and he expressed hope that the United States will realize that the uprooting of Israeli settlers in the occupied territories is "inconceivable."

Libya

Arrested West Germans — After the FRG ambassador in Tripoli visited eight detained West Germans accused of espionage, an FRG Foreign Ministry spokesman said Libya has not yet informed the FRG of the charges against them, DPA reported.

Al-Qadhdhafi on Brazil Incident — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed "regret" that the Libyan official in charge of civil aviation dishonestly failed to inform Brazil about the contents of the Libyan aircraft which stopped in Brazil on their way to Nicaragua, according to JANA. Asserting that "imperialism and Zionism" are trying to exploit the incident to disrupt Libyan-Brazilian relations, Al-Qadhdhafi said Libya has never concealed its support for Nicaragua.

Saharan Conflict— Calling for a "balanced" U.S. policy between the SDAR and Morocco, the Polisario declared itself ready for talks with the United States for a future of "peace and mutual trust," according to an SDAR communique reported by Algiers radio.

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Al-Wazir Inspects PLO Forces in Al-Biqa'

JN201651 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, paid inspection and field visits during the past 2 days to the Palestinian forces stationed in the Al-Biqa'. He held several working sessions with the Palestinian military commanders during which they discussed in detail means of intensifying military operations behind Israeli lines. They also discussed various aspects of preparations in anticipation of possible aggression.

Brother Abu Jihad praised the noticeable escalation of operations carried out by the Lebanese nationalist resistance front against the Israeli occupation of Lebanon. He said: We, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese resistance, have decided to give the enemy forces in Lebanon no time to rest or to reinforce their occupation by developing the quality and quantity of our operations and by intensifying them behind their lines.

Brother Abu Jihad spoke about the current political situation saying: The U.S. Administration wishes to impose its plan on the region. Such a plan has no chance of survival because it was born, lived, and is now dying in a bottleneck.

He added that the campaign of blackmail and threats does not scare the Palestinian revolution, and that the PLO will not allow their enemies to eliminate it politically after they failed to eliminate it militarily more than once, the latest time being the war in Lebanon. He said that there is no one who can wrest the right to sole Palestinian representation from the PLO because it was not born from a decision but through continuous struggle.

Palestinian Official on Current Situation

GF201608 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 18 Apr 83 p 1, 22

[Dispatch from Tunis by Talal al-'Awdi]

[Excerpts] AL-ANBA' has learned that the Palestinian leadership in Tunis received an important and urgent letter from Damascus believed to be dealing with developments in the Al-Biqa' region.

An official of the unified Palestinian Information Department, Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, told AL-ANBA' that there are new developments in the Palestinian arena and the leadership will study these after 'Arafat presents the picture of the Arab and international stances in light of the existing issues in the arena. He said that the most important issue will undoubtedly be Palestinian-Jordanian relations after the recent Jordanian statement.

He stated that the organization is greatly interested in resuming the Jordanian-Palestinian talks and it does not necessarily mean that the Reagan plan is the beginning and end of these talks, but that these talks are considerably more than that.

The Palestinian official stated that decisions will be adopted and some, but not all, of them will be announced, because the Palestinian leadership feels that it has been put into a political minefield and it has to face the situation with great sagacity and fortitude. The official added that the PLO is facing many U.S. pressures at this stage from many channels, but he did not elaborate. Moreover, there are pressures on Jordan to move away from the Reagan plan prior to the beginning of U.S. withdrawals.

PFLP, DFLP Issue Statement in Damascus

JN201823 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo Damascus correspondent Louis Faris — live or recorded]

[Text] In a joint statement issued at the end of a series of meetings by the political bureaus of the PFLP and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in Damascus, the two fronts stressed that abidance by, commitment to, and development of the resolutions issued by the PNC session in Algiers constitute the primary obligation of the forces of revolution within the framework of the PLO and that the two fronts will oppose firmly any retreat on these resolutions.

The joint statement considered the results of the recent Jordanian-Palestinian talks an important sign which has demonstrated once again that the Palestinian cause is the core of the dispute in the region. Referring to the campaign and peace calls in wake of the failure of these talks to make the Arab rulers relinquish the Rabat summit resolutions, the joint statement said that these are a new reaffirmation that the PLO, with the status it enjoys and the role it plays, possesses the ability to obstruct and foil President Reagan's plan.

The joint statement said that the invitation to convene an Arab summit is aimed at relinquishing previous Arab summit resolutions on Palestinian rights, particularly those dealing with the PLO's right to represent the Palestinian people.

In reply to the Jordanian Government's statements, the joint statement stressed that these [Arab summit] resolutions possess the mechanism for implementation represented in the convening of an expanded international conference based on the UN resolutions which acknowledge Palestinian rights.

The joint statement called for rectifying Palestinian-Syrian relations and for jointly preparing to confront the expected Zionist aggression. The statement also called for reviving the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

The joint statement stated that the meetings held between the two fronts' political bureaus have devoted special attention to a discussion of the condition of the Palestinian people in Lebanon, and particularly of the measures that Israel is carrying out against them.

The joint statement called for implementing the PNC resolution on the formation of a Palestinian national front inside the occupied territories.

Concluding, the statement stressed that the meeting of the two fronts was being held to consolidate national unity within the PLO framework. The joint statement called for entrenching ideological and political concepts between the two fronts and promoting relations between them in all fields.

Observers who are well-versed in Palestinian affairs have found that the importance of this statement lies in the fact that it is the first of its kind between the PFLP and DFLP, which are the two largest factions within the PLO, after Fatah. Thus, the contents of this statement might constitute a strong factor of pressure on decisionmaking within the PLO.

This statement was issued on the eve of the meeting of the PLO Executive Committee, scheduled to be held in Tunis tonight.

Eight PLO Executive Committee members left Damascus for Tunis at noon today to participate in the meeting that will be chaired by Yasir 'Arafat and which will discuss the PLO's future moves in light of the failure in the Amman talks of Syrian-Palestinian relations, of the exchange of prisoners, of the situation in the territories which Israel occupies, of the situation in the Arab arena, and of the forthcming Arab summit.

Palestinian Front Ends Parley, Issues Statement
JN201550 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1422 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, 20 Apr (SANA) — The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front has affirmed that the Syrian position, which opposes the U.S. plan, confronts the Zionist occupation forces, and has played a prominant role in confronting the enemies' policies, has unsettled Arab reactionaries and has foiled most of their schemes.

In its political statement issued at the conclusion of its fourth ordinary session meetings, the front's Central Committee held Arab reactionaries who run panting after capitulatory U.S.-Zionist solutions that conspire against the Arab nation's cause responsible for the deteriorating Arab situation. The statement said that, despite this conspiratorial role, Arab reactionaries have not succeeded in any of their schemes and designs due to the Syrian position that opposes the U.S. plan.

The statement affirmed that the most important aspect of the Palestinian situation was the prominence of the role of our people's masses inside the occupied land — through their vehement uprisings, which represent a daily nightmare for the occupation forces.

The statement criticized some of the PLO's positions. It said that attempts to harmonize the policies of Arab reactionaries and U.S. schemes had contributed to the failure to achievea unified stand within the framework of the PLO. The statement said that the contacts which were held with Jordan and Egypt and the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian committee on a unified basis were examples of the mistakes of the policies of the PLO leadership which represented a violation of, and a deviation from, the PNC resolutions and those agreed upon by all the revolution factions.

The statement said that the nationalist progressive regimes and forces were responsible for repulsing the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the Arab nation. It called on these regimes and forces to intensify their efforts toward forming, developing, and strengthening practical and suitable courses of action, such as the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the Arab People's Conference. The statement praised Palestinian-Soviet relations and called for strengthening and developing them. It also praised Soviet efforts aimed at achieving world peace and ending the arms race, which support just struggles in the world.

Al-Wazir on Jordanian-Palestinian Dialogue
GF201714 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, reaffirmed that doors are still open to a dialogue between the PLO and Jordan and between the PLO and the entire Arab nation in order to discuss the best ways to bolster the Palestinian political move on the international arena on the basis of the principles that were approved by the PNC recently.

In a press statement published today, Brother Abu Jihad said that Reagan's plan does not fulfill the goals of the Palestinian people, nor does it recognize the PLO or guarantee the national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to establish their state.

PLO Official on Palestinian-Jordanian Dispute
GF201544 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 19 Apr 83 p 15

[Text] A prominent Palestinian official has unraveled the enigma of the current contacts between the Eastern and Western sides of the Arab world on the resumption of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks. The official who spoke to AL-WATAN from Tunis on the phone said that the PLO is being subjected to enormous pressures to accept the Reagan plan which is rejected by the PLO because it does not fulfill the rights of our people. The official explained that the PLO is currently working on the Reagan plan in order to modify it so that it will agree with the Fes Arab plan and to clarify it with regard to recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the establishment of the Palestinian state.

The Palestinian official reiterated the PLO'S insistence on not commissioning anyone to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people. He said: "No negotiations will take place except with the representatives of the Palestinian people."

The official said that King Husayn still refuses to resume the Palestinian-Jordanian talks unless the PLO agrees to accept the Reagan plan. He indicated that Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta, who made a visit to Jordan on an unannounced mission which AL-WATAN has reported, and who returned to Fes the night before last, did not succeed in his mission to convince the Jordanian officials to change their stand. He added that King Hassan II of Morocco is still optimistic and that he has dispatched his foreign minister, M'hamed Boucetta,

and Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, on a tour of Baghdad and Riyadh in order to get both Iraq and Saudi Arabia to exert their efforts on Jordan.

The official stressed that the upcoming meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will take place in the next few days. He said: "Our relations with Syria are excellent. We follow a united strategy." He added that the Al-Biqa' battle has become such an imminent thing that intensified coordination between Syria and the PLO has resulted.

He concluded his statement by saying: "As it is proposed now, the Reagan plan is on its last leg."

PFLP's Habash, PLO's Khalaf Reject Peace Plans

LD201238 Kuwait KUNA in English 1105 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Kwait, April 20 (KUNA) — A Palestinian official was quoted here Wednesday as rejecting all current Mideast peace proposals in light of the imbalance of power in the region.

Leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) Dr. George Habash told the leftist weekly magazine 'AT-TALI'A' appearing here Wednesday that the peace proposals are rejected since they block future struggle for the liberation of Palestine. Such a trend endangers the Palestinian struggle unless restricted to prevent impulsive moves, Habash added.

He argued that his front does not go into extremes but finds current political settlements falling short of meeting the minimum requirements of Palestinian struggle.

All attempts to infringe on the national unity and the Palestinian revolution's alliance with Arab and international forces and regimes should be combated, the PLFP leader ruled.

Central Committee member of the mainstream Palestinian commando movement Al-Fatah Salah Khalaf announced earlier that the Palestine Liberation Organization had accepted the Fes plan to foil U.S. President Ronald Reagan's peace initiative since the Arab plan does not include a clear-cut recognition of Israel.

Khalaf added in an interview with the Kuwaiti weekly magazine AL-MUJTAMA' published Tuesday that current solutions do not replace armed struggle to liberate the occupied lands.

The Palestinian official said that there were pressures on the PLO to offer more concessions but highlighted that there was a ceiling to such concessions.

This generation is not committed to signing an accord on the termination and liquidation of the Palestinian question, he said.

Commentary on U.S. Embassy Explosion in Beirut

JN201935 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Palestine broadcast; from "On the Events" program]

[Text] Brothers on the road to revolution and liberation: Since the announcement of the explosion which took place in the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, the Zionists have been trying to exploit this explosion to justify the continued presence of their invasion forces in Lebanon. They behaved in the same manner and used the same logic after the explosion which resulted in the death of late Lebanese President Bashir al-Jumayyil — the explosion which they used as a pretext to storm West Beirut.

This is why it is not strange that many voices, including U.S. voices, accuse Mosad. Some of this has been said by Larry Pressler, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. He said that the Israeli intelligence organ, Mosad, is the only one which is qualified to carry out a successful operation such as the one which took place against the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. At any rate, Israel has precedents in biting the U.S. hand despite all that the U.S. hand represents to it. We cannot forget the incident of the sinking of the U.S. spy ship, Liberty, in 1967.

Whether the Israelis were behind this explosion or not, the more important fact which the U.S. public opinion must realize is that the U.S. Embassy was not exposed to such an incident when the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese national forces controlled West Beirut, including the U.S. Embassy site there. The explosion in the U.S. Embassy took place in the presence of the U.S. Marines in Beirut within the multinational force, and in the presence of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon. This has a significance; Arab ethics protected the U.S. Embassy building when this embassy did not enjoy direct Israeli or U.S. protection. When this embassy came under the protection of those who claimed that they had driven the terrorists away from Beirut and restored security to it, they were unable to protect their embassy and the lives of its diplomats.

Washington might face similar failures in every place it believes that it can impose its control through the Rapid Deployment Forces or the U.S. Marines. These forces will remain incapable of protecting U.S. interests when the real U.S. conduct provokes Arab dignity and Arab will for liberation.

Romanian Coverage of 'Arafat Visit

For Romanian reportage on the visit there by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, see the Romania section of the 21 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT, and subsequent issues.

GULF AFFAIRS

Iran Withdraws From Upcoming ROPME Session

LD202012 Kuwait KUNA in English 1617 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, April 20 (KUNA) — Iran has withdrawn its consent to attend an emergency meeting for the Regional Organization for the Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME) scheduled for Muscat next Tuesday to discuss means of combating the Iranian oil slick that is posing unprecedented threat to the Gulf states. The Omani Embassy here said in a press release today that the Iranian ambassador here 'Ali Shams Ardakani "had welcomed the meeting in a telephone call with the Omani Ambassador Sa'ud Salim Al-'ans but, then he broke his promise, and withdrew giving unacceptable reasons."

The embassy's statement, which was meant to be in response to previous press statements by the Iranian official on the Muscat's meeting, stopped short however of clarifying the nature of the excuse Ardakani has used.

The Iranian ambassador has earlier told the press that his country might not take part in the meeting called for by Oman on the ground that the last meeting of ROPME which convened in Kuwait has not been concluded yet. Ardakani added that "the Muscat meeting is a meeting for the Sultanate and its friends and not for the ROPME" adding that "this meeting is aiming at serving Iran".

A political rift between Iran and Iraq had obstructed reaching an agreement on fighting the oil slick at two ministerial conferences for the ROPME. The damaged Iranian oil wells of Nowruz are currently pouring more than 2000 barrels of crude oil per day into the Gulf waters.

The embassy said the Omani call for the meeting was prompted by the Sultanate's keenness to reach a final solution for the pollution problem threatening the peoples and countries of the ROPME. The [words indistinct] press release that Ardakani's argument that Kuwait's meeting was not over yet was "incorrect", and should not obstruct [words indistinct] a new meeting in any of the ROPME states. The embassy stressed that Oman is concerning like any other country in the region that security and stability prevail in the area as to avert the impending dangers, particularly that of the oil slick.

The Muscat meeting is expected to be attended by the other member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain who [are] also ROPME members in addition to Iraq and Iran.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn Tuesday told a Saudi envoy who delivered a message from King Fahd that Iraq is ready to cooperate with the Arab Gulf states in solving the problems of oil pollution. President Husayn said, however, that this should not be exploited by Iran in a way that threatens the security of Iraq. Meanwhile, Iraqi Minister of Culture and Information Latif Jasim Nusayyif reiterated Iraq's readiness to cooperate with the Arab Gulf states in combating the oil slick.

Nusayyif told a press conference in Baghdad today that "Iraq is still calling for a naval route for transporting technical equipment from an Arab country to the Iranian Nowruz oil field to cap the damaged wells which are causing the pollution but on condition that this be implemented under the supervision of international organizations and Arab countries." He charged that Iran had refused the Iraqi proposal and wanted to use the capping of the oil wells"to foster its military position by clearing the sea routes from mines and by introducing military equipment to its ports."

Meanwhile, the secretary of the environment protection council in Kuwait Ibrahim Hadi said Wednesday that a bulletin would be released daily to brief the public on the situation on the coast and any potential pollution case. He added that the authorities in charge of monitoring pollution had made a survey on the coasts and the territorial waters and got assured that they were free of oil patches.

Hadi said that representatives of the council and the national plan for combating pollution met Wednesday with members of the National Assembly's committee of health affairs and briefed them on the precautions and preparations carried out to monitor coasts and territorial waters. It was reported earlier in the day that no Arab Gulf country had yet announced a pollution incident resulting from the Iranian oil slick.

BAHRAIN

PDRY Foreign Minister Arrvies 20 April

GF201330 Doha QNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Manama, 20 Apr (QNA) — PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali and accompanying delegation, arrived in Manama from Doha this morning on a 3-day visit to Bahrain that is part of his tour of the region's states. He was received in the airport by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and a number of senior officials. The minister stated upon his arrival that he will deliver a message to Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad on bilateral relations. He explained in his statement that he will hold talks with the Bahraini foreign minister on bilateral relations and the developments in which the Gulf region in particular and the Arab region in general are passing.

WAKH: Kuwait Reportedly Takes Austerity Measures

GF201320 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0957 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Apr (WAKH) — New appointments in a number of government establishments in Kuwait have been halted and this will apply across the board. In addition, the number of employees will also be reduced in a fashion that will not affect productivity, and overtime work will cease. These actions are being taken within the framework of what could be termed as austerity measures. The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH said today that a number of ministerial establishments will start combining departments and sections to ensure administrative discipline and limit expenditures.

Furthermore, in the same report the paper said the Ministry of Education has tentatively decided to stop expending money for school clothing and foodstuff as of next year. The paper added that these demands by the government and the people have been longstanding and will lead to reducing government spending and the public's realization of the need for it to bear responsibilities on all levels.

QATAR

PDRY Foreign Minister Departs 20 April

GF201146 Doha QNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Doha, 20 Apr (QNA) — PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali left Doha for Manama today after concluding his official 2-day visit to Qatar. During his visit, the Yemeni minister conveyed an oral message from PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani on fraternal relations between the two countries and the recent developments on the Arab arena. The minister was seen off by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs; and a number of Qatari officials.

SAUDI ARABIA

'Abdallah Receives Somali Foreign Minister

LD201218 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1058 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Apr (SPA) — Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy premier and commander of the national guard, received at his office at the Royal Court this afternoon Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Jama, who handed the prince a written message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre. Somali Ambassador to the Kingdom Abdallah Hajj 'Abd ar-Rahman was also present at this meeting. The Somali minister arrived in Riyadh earlier today.

Saudi King Receives YAR President's Letter

GF201148 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Apr (WAKH) — Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and chief of the national guard, has received a letter from YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih addressed to Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The letter was delivered by Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, YAR minister of state and secretary general of the YAR Supreme Council of Youth and Sports when he was received by the crown prince today. The YAR minister arrived in Riyadh last night.

Information Minister on Arab Summit, GCC Talks

LD201953 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Information Minister Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani has declared that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, led by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, welcomes the holding of an Arab summit conference in Fes. This is based on its caring for the unity of Arab ranks. He affirmed that the Kingdom spares no efforts in seeking the closing of ranks and the adoption of a unified Arab sand to attain the sublime Arab objectives we seek.

In a statement to WAM [EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY], the minister said that the Kingdom will undoubtedly be happy to see another Arab summit of heads of states take place. He hoped that during the coming conference an evaluation would be made of the dimensions of the past stage and the changes that have taken place since then in the Arab arena.

He pointed out that since being a crown prince, King Fahd has been anxious to close Arab ranks and exploit all the Kingdom's relations in serving the cause of the fraternal Arab people of Palestine and their right to retreive their usurped rights and set up their state on their own land. He affirmed that the Kingdom believes in the need for the adoption of a unified stand by the Arab nation, and that King Fahd always aspired to such an attitude. He expressed his hope that the forthcoming Arab summit would provide a suitable opportunity for evaluating the past stage and the crystalization of a unified Arab stand so that the Arab nation's vision of the future would be clear.

He pointed out that it is essential in the current phase for Arab countries to exploit all their relations; there are countries we never dreamed would stand by us and there are others which have begun to realize the dangers inherent in the Zionist practices and the dimensions of the Zionist settlement designs. He said that it is our duty, as information media, to make use of this situation for the good of the Arab countries. We must remind the world of the gravity of the Zionist practices.

Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani affirmed that the eighth GCC information ministers conference, which concluded its work early today, has fulfilled many of the hopes pinned on it. He said that the Gulf region is passing through a decisive and critical stage and that campaigns of distortion have been mounting. But we have proven to the world that our Gulf meetings are not a grouping against anyone and are not directed against any faction.

He affirmed that the Gulf meetings are intended to pool capabilities for a better collective cooperation action to be used for building our homeland, developing our societies, and shouldering our responsibilities toward the Arab and Islamic family and toward the international society in general. This is the best reply to the distortion campaigns being waged against the Arab and Islamic nations. He called on the international community to bring strong pressure to bear on Israel to establish a just peace in the area, because Israeli stubbornness has become evident. He said that the Arabs declared their views when the Arab seven-member committee made it clear to the world that the Arab world desires peace while the other side does not want peace.

Concerning the Jordanian-Palestinian talks he said that the Kingdom is always ready to work for the unification of ranks. But we always support the right of the brother Palestinians to determine their own destiny. We are prepared to do what is necessary. He affirmed that the Kingdom is with the Palestinians always in the full sense of the word. Dr Muhammad 'Abduh

Yamani returned home this evening from Abu Dhabi after attending meetings of the eighth GCC information ministers.

Crown Prince Receives Helmut Schmidt 20 April
GF201942 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and head of the national guard, received former FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who is currently visiting the Kingdom, at his office in the Royal Court at 1200 today. The meeting was attended by Prince 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy minister of defense and aviation.

Defense Minister To Visit Turkey 24 April
GF201954 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, will make an official visit to Turkey next Sunday at the invitation of Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ulusu. During this visit, which will last 4 days, he will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Riyadh Blames Israel for U.S. Embassy Bombing
LD201412 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Apr 83

['Abdallah al-Khulayif analysis]

[Text] The results of the explosion, which the U.S. Embassyin Beirut was subjected to the day before yesterday, have continued to escalate with the discovery of additional bodies beneath the ruins. The latest statistics show that the number of those killed has reached 80 and those injured 150, which is in addition to a number of missing whose fate remains unknown. With the continuation of the rescue and search operation, the results of this action are evolving to form one of the most important and irresponsible criminal actions carried out by Zionism with utmost wickedness and viciousness and in a most sophisticated and precise style, to achieve many objectives which as a whole represent Israeli desires whose importance to the continuation of the aggressive and expansionist practices of the Israeli entity is confirmed by the Zionist reality in all its stages.

There cannot be any doubt that the dirty figures of the Mosad are the real planners and executors of this operation. Political observers have recalled a number of facts that confirm this statement beyond any argument: The Israeli enemy, the only beneficiary of this incident and similar ones, has accustomed the world during various periods, even before its gangs acquired an entity, to this type of terrorist practices which was begun by Menahem Begin, prime minister of the Israeli enemy, and Yitzhaq Shamir, his foreign minister, when they led the Irgun organization during the British mandate. This organization's gangs carried out a number of massacres against the British, the most important of which was the King David Hotel massacre, despite the fact that Britain was then the only side that the Zionists should have respected, in its capacity as the author of the promise aimed at achieving a national home for them in Arab Palestine.

There is a common denominator between this operation and many other similar ones, such as the attack on the U.S. ship Liberty anchored near Al-'Arish during the June 1967 aggression, to prevent it from monitoring the progress of the battles of this aggression with which Israel deceived world public opinion and depicted as self-defense; between 60-70 Americans fell victim to this Israeli operation. Another example is the artificial provocations against U.S. soldiers in the multinational force and the many clashes with them to annoy them.

However, what can be said about Israel in relation to the U.S. Embassy opertion is not an accusation as much as holding it fully responsible. The U.S. confirmed this fact when Alan Romberg, official spokesman of the U.S. State Department, announced that neither the PLO nor any other Palestinian organization had anything to do with the incident. He confirmed that the information reaching Washington has cleared the Palestinians and did not indicate the involvement of any Palestinians side in this operation.

Why then did Israel carry out this operation against a state that provides it with great military, political, and diplomatic support such as the United States? The answer is clarified by the real objectives that Israel hoped to achieve through this operation: first, to deal a blow to U.S.-Lebanese relations in whose development Israel saw a danger to its premeditated ambitions in Lebanon; second, to halt the U.S. role in the Lebanese-Israeli talks being held under U.S. auspices for some months now without reaching any positive result worth mentioning — especially now that the United States has indeed become weary of the prolongation of these talks and their deterioration as a result of Israel's unreasonable, intransigent attitude; and third, to create some kind of fear in the hearts of the Americans, whose Marines in Lebanon number 1,200 soldiers, and to force them to leave Lebanon so that Israel may behave as it wishes and in the way that serves its dreams in Lebanon. Israel's policy and practices allow it to use any means to achieve a certain objective, and it is ready to do so in the future also, dealing blows to and harming even its closest friends if it sees that this is in harmony with its special ideology and the protocols of Zion.

Mubarak Condolences to Reagan on Embassy Attack

NC202022 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has sent the following cable of condolences to U.S. President Ronald Reagan:

His Excellency President Ronald Reagan,

We have received with profound sorrow and grief the news of the criminal attack against the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, which resulted in scores of innocent and unarmed victims who were serving their friendly homeland and the causes of peace and cooperation among nations.

Such treacherous and criminal actions are contrary to the spiritual values and moral principles of our Arab nation and are considered a serious violation of the principles of human behavior.

While sending you and the victims' families sincere condolences and sympathies, in my name and in the name of all members of the Egyptian people who denounce violence and condemn all forms of terrorism, I am confident that you will continue the great efforts you are exerting to end the foreign occupation of Lebanon and to complete the links of a comprehensive and just peace and end the causes of hatred.

Signed: Muhammad Husni Mubarak

'Ali Sends Condolences to U.S. on Embassy Victims

NC201615 Cairo MENA in English 1555 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, April 20 (MENA) — Egypt conveyed its condolences to the American Administration over the death of the American victims of the blast at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali requested Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Dr Ashraf Ghurbal to convey the condolences. 'Ali also requested Dr Ghurbal, during a telephone conversation today, to express Egypt's hope that this deplorable incident will not influence the American role in quest of peace and in realising an Israeli pull-out from Lebanon, adopting positive steps towards settlement of the Palestinian cause and achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Mideast.

Mubarak Visits Production Sites in Suez 20 April

NC201353 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has resumed his field tours of production sites in the governorates. Accompanied by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Deputy Prime Minister and Petroleum Minister 'Izz ad-Din Hilal, Reconstruction Minister Hasaballah al-Kafrawi and Investment Affairs Minister Dr Wajih Shindi, the president paid a visit to the Suez cement plant where he gave the signal for the start of the new furnace at the cement plant. The president listened to an explanation by the officials about the plant's production and its recent expansions with the establishment of a new furnace costing 179 million pounds. The annual production of the plant is 1 million tons.

After visiting the cement plant, the president proceeded to the Suez Petroleum Industries Company where he inaugurated its new complex which is designed to produce improved gasoline. The cost of this project totaled 43 million pounds. This complex also produces butane gas and fertilizer.

Mubarak Allots Villa for Former President Najib

NC202241 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2236 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has made a decree allocating a villa in the Al-Qubbah quarter in Cairo as a residence for former President Muhammad Najib instead of his present house. Reporting this in its Thursday issue, AL-AKHBAR says the former president will move to his new home next week when his health condition enables him to move from his present home in the al-Marah quarter.

Former UK Prime Minister Callaghan Arrives 20 Apr

NC200916 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0858 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA) — This morning, the former British Prime Minister James Callaghan arrived here from Amman on a 2-day visit within the framework of his tour of a number of the area's countries to see the latest developments in the Middle East situation.

He was received at the airport by British Ambassador in Cairo Michael Weir.

'Ali Meets Callaghan

NC201603 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today held a meeting with former British Prime Minister James Callaghan. Callaghan stated after the meeting that negotiations must be held to achieve peace in the Middle East, that the PLO must express readiness to reach agreement with King Husayn to encourage him to participate in the future negotiations, and that Israel must stop the establishment of more settlements to proceed with the peace process in the area. He said the meaning of Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip must be defined and the Palestinians must be given hope for the solution of their problem.

Ghali Meets With Gabonese Minister 20 April

NC201638 Cairo MENA in English 1355 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, April 20 (MENA) — State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali discussed today with the Gabonese presidential envoy the Egyptian-Gabonese ties in the light of the ministerial meetings of the joint Egyptian-Gabonese committee to be held in July in Libreville.

The Gabonese official, who is also deputy premier and minister of communications, discussed with Dr. Ghali means of safeguarding the Organisation of African Unity within the framework of coordination between the two countries and the arrangements for the coming African summit to open in Addis Ababa in June.

The Gabonese official arrived here yesterday on a three-day visit.

Cabinet Discusses Mubarak Tour Results
NC202115 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] The Cabinet held a meeting this evening under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din to discuss the political and economic results achieved by President Husni Mubarak's visit to the PRC, the DPRK, Japan, Indonesia, and Pakistan. The Cabinet also discussed the recent developments in the Middle East situation and the implementation of the development projects during the past 9 months.

'Ali To Visit Romania, Spain in April, May
NC200720 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minsiter Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that he will leave for Romania on 28 April on a 2-day visit during which he will hand a message from President Husni Mubarak to the Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

In an exclusive statement to MENA yesterday in Khartoum, 'Ali added that he will also visit Spain from 3-6 May at the invitation of the Spanish foreign minister to discuss political matters whch are of mutual interest as well as cooperation in the cultural and economic domains.

'Ali added that Egypt is currently making contacts with the African states in order to coordinate and prepare for the convening of the African summit conference which will take place in the Ethiopian capital in June.

Cairo Radio on Reagan Cable to Al-Asad
NC201601 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Apr 83

['Abd al-'Azim Hammad commentary]

[Text] It seems certain now that the U.S. State Department spokesman has received clear instructions from his superiors about the implications of President Ronald Reagan's reference to the Golan Heights in his greetings to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the occasion of Evacuation Day.

President Reagan sent this cable last Saturday. He said in it that the United States is working for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East that will include the return of the Arab territories which Israel has been occupying since 1967 in return for the establishment of peace in the area.

Pro-Israeli circles in the U.S. press immediately became preoccupied with this cable's contents. They wondered whether Reagan's reference to the Syrian Golan Heights, among the territories from which Israel must withdraw, was intentional or unintentional.

In his press conference last Sunday evening, the U.S. State Department spokesman announced that the reference to the Golan was, of course, intentional. But he warned against attaching any importance to this reference, affirming that President Reagan's cable to President al-Asad on the anniversary of the evacuation of the French forces was merely a traditional cable. However, the U.S. State Department spokesman yesterday explained that the United States has informed Syria that the peaceful settlement in the Middle East must include the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights in addition to withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The importance of this new clarification by the U.S. State Department lies in the fact that Washington's attitude regarding the Golan Heights was not clear in President Reagan's initiative last September. It is true that Washington denounced the decision to annex the Golan to Israel in December 1981, but Reagan's initiative, in its capacity as a proposed U.S. framework for comprehensive peaceful settlement negotiations, only said the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are territories to which the principle of the impermissibility of seizing territory by force applies. This principle is included in UN Security Council Resolution 242.

Therefore, it is possible to say now that Washington has offered a pledge that the Syrian Golan Heights are also among the territories to which the principle of the impermissibility of seizing territory by force applies. This pledge comes as an addition to the list of issues in which U.S. policy conflicts with Israeli policy. This list includes the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Israeli settlements in them. This pledge by Washington is also considered a positive development and this positiveness is not diminished by being a message addressed to Arab hardliners to ease their hardline position and their pressures on the PLO at the present stage and to also ease their opposition to the U.S. role in making peace.

However, the U.S. pledge on the Golan can also be added to a similar pledge regarding Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. This pledge on Lebanon is seen by those who have reservations against the U.S. role as a real test of the limits and effectiveness of this role. If Washington's pledge regarding the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon is eventually fulfilled, this will constitute an important precedence which will raise the asset of confidence in Washingon among the Arab states. Then every pledge made by Washington will have an effectiveness that will make those who have reservations about its peaceful role reconsider their calculations.

Communiques Cite 19-21 Apr Military Operations

No 1,067

JN201620 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA) — The Iraqi forces have killed 17 Iranians and wounded others opposite their positions in the central sector of the battlefield. Communique No 1,067 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command this evening stated that the Iraqi forces also captured one Iranian in the same sector who was evacuated to the rear lines.

Reporting on the military activities on the battlefront during the past 24 hours, the communique stated that the Iraqi forces had killed one and evacuated two serviceable tanks left behind by Iranian forces during the Fakkeh battle in the Maysan sector. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No. 1,067 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The banner of victory won by the lofty Iraqis against the invaders and aggressors will continue to flutter high, protected by the courageous sons of our triumphant army. The results of the activities in the various sectors yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units sighted small groups of enemy elements opposite their positions in the central sector of the battlefield. They struck them with all types of weapons, killing 17 and wounding many. One of our forward units captured one enemy element opposite its positions in the same sector and evacuated him to the rear lines.

2. One was killed and two serviceable tanks, which the enemy had left behind during the recent Fakkeh battle in the Maysan sector, were evacuated.

3. Two weapons emplacements and one hardware stockpile were destroyed east of Basra.

4. Last night and today, the criminal Iranian regime pursued its shelling of Basra, Mandali and its outskirts, and Ash-Shihabi, damaging several houses and cars in Basra and Ash-Shihabi and wounding one civilian in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 April 1983

No 1,068

JN211531 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1519 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Apr (INA) — Iraq has announced that an Iranian naval target was sunk at 1257 today as it was attempting to approach the Iranian Nowruz oil field in the Arab Gulf.

Communique No 1,068 issued this evening by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command noted that an Iraqi naval force spotted the enemy naval target this morning as it was trying to approach the Nowruz oil field. Our naval force pursued the target, which was destroyed by a direct hit from naval aircraft.

Two Car-Bomb Explosions in Baghdad Reported

JN211106 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Apr (INA) — Criminal agents of the Iranian regime detonated two booby-trapped cars in two Baghdad areas today. The incident led to the martyrdom or injury of a number of citizens. It also caused damage to some buildings in the two areas.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, told INA that this crime will not pass unpunished. He added: Iraq has decided to avenge the citizens who were exposed to these acts.

The Iraqi minister said that the Iranian regime and its henchmen resorted to such cowardly acts in order to compensate for the regime's recent bitter defeats in the battlefield. He indicated that the two cars went off in the As-Salihiyah and Al-'Ulwiyah areas in Baghdad. He added that Iraq has repeatedly warned Iran to stop perpetrating such crimes and avoid shelling the civilian establishments and peaceful inhabitants in the Iraqi cities and villages.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim stressed that Iraq has decided to avenge the citizens who were martyred in the two car explosionsas a punishment for the Iranian regime's filthy crimes.

Concluding, the Iraqi minister held the criminal Iranian regime and its henchmen fully responsible for the consequences of their acts.

INA: Iraqi Minister Reiterates Stands on War

JN201436 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA) — Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of culture and information, has stated that Iraq's willingness to end the war with Iran through peaceful means will not affect its continued readiness to defend its borders against the Iranian regime's expansionist designs.

At a press conference here today attended by the Arab and foreign press, Jasim explained that, since the beginning of the Iranian aggression against it, Iraq's stand had been characterized by a sincere desire to achieve peace and settle pending problems in such a manner as to safeguard the rights of the two parties and prevent interference in each other's domestic affairs.

Jasim stressed that Iraq's desire for peace comes from an immutable principle and course, not from weakness, as the Iranian regime believes.

The Iraqi minister referred to Iraq's agreement in advance to any decisions that the popular Islamic Conference, which ended its meetings here last Sunday, might adopt. He also noted that the Iraqi Revolution Command Council had adopted a recent decision agreeing to cease-fire if Iran agrees to this.

Dailies Criticize U.S. Policies on Israel

AD-DUSTUR Article

JN201047 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Statements Alone Are Not Sufficient," AD-DUSTUR says:

The United States has reiterated that the essential principles for solving the crisis of the region rest in implementing UN Resolution 242, which calls for the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank, Gaza, and the Syrian Golan Heights. Although this reflects a positive attitude, it is not something new, because Washington has already declared this position without accompanying serious effort to carry it out.

Although convinced that peace should be preceeded by the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the halting of aggressive acts against the citizens of the West Bank, Gaza,and the Golan, Washington has not, unfortunately, exerted any real effort or pressure on Israel to put an end to its arrogance and expansionist policies. Yet we know that the U.S. Administration has the means to put political, economic, and military pressure on the Zionist entity and to place that entity on the path to peace.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: Despite their positive points, the U.S. statements alone are not enough. These statements cannot freeze the settlements, end the aggression, or withdraw the Israeli forces from Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza. If the United States alone cannot put pressure on Israel and curb it, Washington should enlist the efforts of Europe, the USSR, and the world to contain Israel. Israel will then have to respond to the peace efforts, and the UN resolutions — including Resolution 242 — which Washington considers the basis for a just settlement. Otherwise statements will continue, and Israel will continue to pursue its aggressive settlement plan which exposes the region and the whole world to danger.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B Article

JN210930 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Facts and Basics in U.S. Policy," SAWT ASH-SHA'B says:

Although U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East is constantly active as manifested in its political moves and obvious concern about the affairs and issues of the region, the practical results of this diplomacy are not compatible with the active moves led by the United States in this phase.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B expresses the belief that U.S. policy in the Middle East can be summed up by saying that it consists of too many moves with too few achievements. This reality may be the reason behind the expected visit by the U.S. secretary of state to the region, after Lebanon's problem became a trap for the U.S. position, and after the Reagan plan became a subject of disagreement between all parties in the region.

Despite its importance, the expected visit by the U.S. secretary of state will not make any essential changes in the positions of the disputing parties, especially Israel. Washington knows all the details of the situation and the obstacles which are being placed by Israel in the path of finding viable solutions to the issues of the region. The Arabs cannot make any more concessions, other than to accept the peace option, which contains the principle of negotiations and tacit acceptance of Israeli existence.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B believes that the lenient U.S. stances toward Israeli intransigence, the verbal U.S. stands on the Israeli expansionist Judaization settlement policy, and the continued U.S. submission to Israeli policies of creating obstacles are all weak points in the U.S. position. This position will find it difficult to tackle the situation in the Middle East as long as it remains unchanged.

There are also the basics which were created and entrenched by Kissinger in U.S. policy. The most important among these basics are: the U.S. commitment to guarantee Israeli security and superiority regardless of its policy and considering this a part of U.S. national security, and the rejection of the recognition of the PLO and the principle of self-determination for the Palestinians, and the establishment of their independent state on their occupied territory.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: These facts and basics in U.S. policy constitute in themselves essential obstacles to the U.S. role in any political solution in the region. Through these facts and basics Israel has succeeded in exploiting the U.S. position, wasting U.S. political efforts, and influencing and limiting U.S. interests. This is what has been happening up to now.

Crown Prince Hasan Receives GDR Official

JN201332 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at the Royal Hashemite Court today Gerd Koenig, GDR deputy minister for foreign affairs. [title as heard]His Highness explained the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories and its repressive measures to Judaize the land, change its characteristics, and evict its indigenous population. His highness the prince discussed the importance of strengthening the cooperation between Jordan and GDR in the scientific, cultural, and economic spheres.

Koenig conveyed the greetings of the GDR leadership to His Majesty King Husayn, pointing out that his government is following his majesty the king's efforts in all spheres and international circles to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region. He expressed his satisfaction with the existing bilateral relations. The GDR ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

His highness the crown prince also received the delegation of the Pakistani Defense College and explained the reality of the

occupied territory and the tribulations of the Palestinian people because of the Israeli expansionist and repressive policy and the Israeli occupation authorities' attempts to Judaize the land and evict its legitimate owners.

Fes Plan Supported

JN202016 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Gerd Koenig, GDR deputy minister for foreign affairs [title as heard], has said that his country supports and backs the just Arab causes. In a lecture he delivered at the international affairs society today, Koenig said that the GDR Government supports the Fes initiative and considers it the basis for any solution to the Middle East crisis. He said that President Reagan's initiative does not contain the necessary basic principles for establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

He added that his government believes that any just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis must include complete Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

USSR Ambassador Submits Memo on Afghan Issue

JN210841 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Apr 83 p 18

[Text] Amman, AD-DUSTUR — The Council of Islamic Organizations and Societies [Majlis al-Munazzamat Wal- jam'iyat al-Islamiyah] in Amman has suggested the formation of a committee from the nonaligned countries with the approval of the USSR and the Islamic Conference Organization in Jidda in order to hold a referendum by which the Afghan people can determine their destiny and choose a government that suits them.

The Council made this proposal in a memorandum the USSR ambassador in Amman submitted yesterday. The memorandum stipulated that the government which would emerge from the referendum should adhere to nonaligned principles, complete neutrality, and normal and excellent relations with the USSR. It should also pledge not to allow any other country to use its lands to harm the USSR.

The memorandum said that once the Afghan problem can be solved,cooperation between the Islamic and the Soviet people will be consolidated.

Continuing Reportage on U.S. Beirut Embassy Blast

Death Toll at 48

NC210921 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] For the 4th day, rescue teams are today continuing their search for missing persons under the rubble of the U.S. Embassy building.

According to the latest reports from the Internal Security Forces, 11 bodies were pulled out during the past 24 hours, including 2 Lebanese, 1 Egyptian, 1 Canadian, and 7 Americans. This brings the number of victims in the explosion to 48 dead.

Investigation Continues

NC210802 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Security and judicial departments continue to hear the statements by detainees, suspects, and witnesses.

Military Prosecutor General Shaykh As'ad Jirmanus has asked the committee of arms and explosive experts to determine the make of the car which was used in the explosion and the quantity and kind of explosives used.

The Army and Internal Security Forces have strengthened the guards at embassies in Beirut.

Cabinet Discusses Explosion

NC202107 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpt] President of the Republic Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has affirmed that the explosion at the U.S. Embassy will not affect the peace process in Lebanon. President al-Jumayyil reiterated his condemnation of this incident. President al-Jumayyil was speaking at the Cabinet's weekly meeting that was convened under his chairmanship in the Republican Palace in the presence of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the ministers.

At the outset of the session, the president of the republic broached the attack that was launched against the U.S. Embassy building in Beirut. On behalf of the Lebanese people, on behalf of the Cabinet, and on his own behalf, he said he was pained. He also expressed regret and denunciation, and he offered condolences for the loss of all the Lebanese and American victims who were martyred in the incident. The president said they were martyred for the sake of the peace process which Lebanon is now waging with the help of the friendly states, with the United States in the forefront.

President al-Jumayyil repeated his repudiation of this obnoxious and cowardly action, which will not affect Lebanon's continuing the peace process with full momentum and with all insistence. He explained that he had immediately called U.S. President Ronald Reagan to convey these feelings to him.

His excellency added that President Reagan emphasized that the U.S. initiative continued despite the tragedy. President Reagan also affirmed continued support for Lebanon to achieve peace throughout Lebanon and to enable Lebanon to impose its sovereignty on all its territory.

President al-Jumayyil said President Reagan reasserted his stance at the press conference that he held as soon as he had learned about the regrettable incident.

The president pointed out that, through its Army and its security forces and in cooperation with the multinational force, Lebanon kept security and guaranteed safety in general. He added that it is absolutely impermissible to generalize about this incident so as to cast doubt about Lebanon's intrinsic ability to control the situation. Many other states have not been spared acts of violence and terrorism despite the intensive military and police measures they take.

On his part, the prime minister explained that he had called the Internal Security Council for a meeting immediately following the incident to take the necessary measures to confront the disaster and to coordinate among the various security and first aid services, which were at the scene of the incident within minutes and which immediately began rescue work.

The minister of justice and information announced that he had expeditiously called the public prosecutors responsible for the investigation to a meeting at which reports on the events were exchanged. The minister also gave the prosecutors clear and frank instructions to speed up the holding of the investigation. Minister Shaykhani informed the Cabinet that he went, accompanied by the public prosecutor, to visit U.S. ambassador in Beirut Robert Dillon to coordinate with him in this matter.

The minister of foreign and expatriates affairs told the Cabinet that the U.S. position has not changed, adding that a U.S. delegation consisting of the assistants of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will arrive in Lebanon to accompany the bodies of the American victims, escorted by a Lebanese delegation drawn from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense, to the United States.

The Cabinet then discussed the topics on the agenda and made the appropriate decisions on them.

Possible Abu Nidal Link

NC201333 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Regarding the current investigation of the explosion incident at the U.S. Embassy, the military judicial investigation is pondering a new fact. This fact is that the mined car, which was used as a tool in the crime, was stolen sometime between June and July last year during the Israeli attack.

The investigation links in part the aforementioned incident with the discussion which has taken place between an official in Paris and Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] regarding the plans which

Palestinian official Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] is preparing against the multinational Force. This discussion was published by a French weekly magazine following the assassination of 'Isam as-Sartawi [in Lisbon].

Al-Jumayyil Meets With Omani Foreign Minister

NC201256 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] At midday today, President Amin al-Jumayyil received Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf al-'Alawi, who arrived in Beirut from Jordan as part of a tour of Amman, Beirut, and Cairo to brief officials on the outcome of Sultan Qabus' recent talks in Washington with President Reagan and the U.S. Administration. The Omani minister handed President al-Jumayyil a message from Sultan Qabus. During the meeting a discussion took place on the political developments in Lebanon and the Middle East.

Following the meeting, the Omani minister said: Sultan Qabus' recent visit to Washington resulted in urging the U.S. side to make further efforts to help the Arab side to solve the Middle East problem. Sultan Qabus laid special emphasis on the question of Lebanon.

The Omani minister said he feels there is a response, desire, and intention on the side of the United States to double efforts to reach an agreement as soon as possible, which will establish the Lebanese state's sovereignty over all Lebanese territory and bring about the withdrawal of the non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. He added that he conveyed in detail various aspects of the talks held between the Sultan and President Reagan and U.S. Administration officials in Washington. He expressed, on behalf of Sultan Qabus, Oman's readiness to offer any political assistance in support of Lebanon's efforts to preserve its sovereignty and independence.

The Omani minister was asked: It is known that Lebanon has repeatedly stressed that any solution it will conclude will not affect Lebanon's relations within the Arab sphere. What is the role which the Sultanate can play in strengthening the Lebanese stand at the negotiations? He answered: We believe it is the duty of all Arabs to support the Lebanese president's efforts to ensure Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. There is no justification whatsoever for any kind of sensitivity toward any agreement which Lebanon might reach with the parties concerned. We always support peace. We also support any steps taken by the Lebanese president.

Foreign Minister Salim's 20 April Press Conference

NC201240 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] At midday today, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim held a press conference at the foreign correspondents hall at the Ministry of Information. At the beginning of the conference, Information Minister Roger Shaykhani spoke, introducing Minister Salim.

Foreign Minister Salim spoke about the bombing of the U.S. Embassy, recalling previous tragedies and terrorist operations in Lebanon. He said it is regrettable that Lebanon has always been the victims of these acts, regardless of the target.

Minister Salim said in English:

[Begin recording] This tragedy is of the magnitude that happened in two or three other places, and it is a kind of freak operation that could be prevented only when Lebanon fully regains its authority over all its territory and when Lebanese security is exclusively the concern of the Lebanese themselves.

This is no time for anyone to exploit this tragedy. Tragedies should not be exploited; they should be investigated and learned from. I would not recall similar tragedies that happened inside Israel. I would not recall the tragedy that happened to the Israeli command post in Tyre. I would not recall the many operations that took place successfully inside Israel's most secure security zones and security posts. Tragedies do happen and we do not apologize for tragedies. A tragedy is not a matter of [word indistinct]. Tragedy is an opportunity to investigate our own security resources to make sure that they are watertight in the future.

Lebanon cannot be fully responsible for its security when there are foreign countries occupying its territory. [end recording]

More on Press Conference

NC201405 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] At a press conference held at the foreign correspondents hall at the Ministry of Information at noon today, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim affirmed that intensive investigation is being conducted to expose the side which planned and carried out the bombing of the U.S. Embassy. He said that it is not Lebanon alone that is responsible for this attack because it does not enjoy full sovereignty and authority over the land. As long as foreign forces continue to control parts of it, we cannot place the full responsibility on the Lebanese authority.

[Begin Salim recording in English] Lebanon cannot be fully responsible for its security when there are foreign countries occupying its territory; when there are still organizations being fed by foreign sources; where the frontiers of the countries intertwine and intermingle inside our country. If there is a lesson to be learned from this tragedy, it is not that others should stay in Lebanon; rather that no one should stay in Lebanon, and that rather that security should not be a matter of collective affair; rather that security should be the affair of the Lebanese themselves.

You cannot bring 7, 8, 10, and 15 countries and organizations and expect to have security in 1 country. Security will be lost in the rubble of committees. The only way to ensure security in Lebanon is to ensure that all non-Lebanese armies and forces get out of Lebanon right now and as soon as possible so that the Lebanese will themselves assume the responsibility for their own

security, their own peace. And then the Lebanese could be held accountable by civilized humanity for what they do or what they do not do.

It is in this spirit that we again offer our apologies. We offer our condolences and again state that the real victim is Lebanon. Israel fights the PLO. The real victim is Lebanon. Syria fights Israel. The real victim is Lebanon. America and the Soviet Union compete inside Lebanon. The real victim is Lebanon. Commando activities take place against one target. The real victim is Lebanon and the numbers are Lebanese.

If we are to recall the history of tragedy in Lebanon for the past 10 years, people fight over our land but we are paying the price. Bombs are aimed supposedly at others but we are the victims. Therefore, in a spirit of disgust and in a spirit of rebellion, Lebanon (?assures) that its freedom is a Lebanese freedom, that its responsibility is the responsibility of the Government of Lebanon and security is an exclusively Lebanese affair. More so, every tragedy, every crisis, confirms the determination of the government to ensure the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. There is no more reason for any non-Lebanese force to remain in Lebanon. [end recording] Minister Salim said Lebanon will enjoy security and safety when all the foreign forces leave its land. This country pays the price of the differences of others on its land. He expressed his gratitude to the multinational force and the friendly countries which cooperate with Lebanon in order that it may regain its authority and health.

Answering a question of whether the attack incident is a lesson to the Lebanese regarding the negotiations, Salim said: The government is conducting an investigation and the criminal will pay a high price. Although Lebanon is still sick, we have managed through the preliminary investigation to unravel some threads which help in exposing the side responsible.

Regarding the precautions adopted to avoid similar operations against other embassies, Salim said: Protection will be given by the Lebanese Army. He denied that he believes there is a connection between the emoassy incident and the progress of the negotiations. If we consider, for the sake of argument, that there is some connection, then you should call on all forces to leave Lebanon in order that it may run its affairs by itself.

Asked if he accused anybody, Salim said: Lebanon has not accused anyone yet. It is still conducting the investigation.

Speaking about the current negotiations, Salim said: There are still four or five obstacles in the path of solutions. They are connected with Israel's demands. We are prepared to exert all efforts and put up with all difficulties in order not to bargain at the expense of the homeland. Lebanon was an umbrella for some people whose papers have been exposed and who do not find another umbrella to protect them.

He spoke about two occupations — a material occupation and a moral occupation. When the first occupation is eliminated, the thinking and will to work for the development and reconstruction of Lebanon will be freed.

Salim on Negotiations

NC202233 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Speaking about the Lebanese question, Dr Salim said: There is no need to link this question with any other issue in the Middle East or with any event that may occur there. He said the negotiations are proceeding slowly but well. He emphasized that if the intentions are good and determination true, there will be no justification to prevent the signing of an agreement in the near future.

Habib Briefs Salim on Talks in Israel

NC202037 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Elie Salim chaired a meeting of the Lebanese and U.S. delegations to the negotiations in the presence of U.S. Presidential envoy Philip Habib in the Republican Palace this evening. Habib briefed the conferees on his talks with the Israeli foreign minister. Habib did not bring new ideas, because the Israeli Cabinet at its latest session, as he put it, did not discuss the ideas he submitted.

No New Israeli Stances

NC202144 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] On the eve of the 32d round of the negotiations, which will be resumed in Khaldah tomorrow, Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Minister Dr Elie Salim and U.S. presidential envoy Ambassador Philip Habib presided over a Lebanese-U.S. meeting. Present at this meeting were Dr Wadi' Haddad, Ghassan Tuwayni, Ambassador Antoine Fattal, Ambassador Ibrahim Kharmah, Staff Brigadier General 'Abbas Hamdan, and Colonels Munir Ruhayyim and Sa'id al-Qa'qur. The meeting was attended on the U.S. side by Ambassador Morris Draper, his assistant Christopher Ross, General Collins, and Mike Kozak.

Ambassador Habib conveyed the results of his discussions with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The U.S. presidential envoy has not brought with him from Israel new stances because, at its recent session held last Tuesday, the Israeli Cabinet did not raise the subject of the negotiations and of the points of contention with Lebanon.

The Israeli ministerial committee charged with overseeing the negotiations is expected to meet tomorrow or the day after tomorrow to discuss the points that Ambassador Philip Habib has raised and to take a position on them. Therefore, the round of negotiations that will be held in Khaldah tomorrow will continue the discussion on the less important points concerning which some progress has been made. Stock of the subjects agreed upon and of the disputed points is expected to be taken tomorrow. Another round of negotiations might be held on the day after tomorrow, Friday, if there is the need.

Ambassador Habib will visit Israel next Friday to be notified of the Israeli reply. He will then return to Beirut at the end of the week. Ambassador Habib will subsequently head the U.S. side to the negotiations which will be held next week and at which he will play an effective role.

Tripartite Talks Delegations Arrive in Khaldah
NC210914 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] The 32d round of the tripartite negotiations will be held in Khaldah today. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent has informed us that the heads and members of the Lebanese, U.S., and Israeli delegations arrived in Khaldah between 0930 and 0945 today.

Peripheral consultations among the members of the delegations are now taking place at the meetings hall in the Lebanon Beach Hotel.

Fattal Talks to Journalists
NC210951 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0917 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Report by Lebanese Information Ministry mission to tripartite negotiations at Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah — live]

[Text] After 30 minutes of peripheral consultations among the heads of the delegations, today's round of negotiations was split into two committees, one political and one military. The two committees then met immediately. The delegations did not hold a plenary session.

Before the political committee started its meeting, Ambassador Antoine Fattal was asked how he views the atmosphere surrounding today's round of negotiations in comparison to the last round, which was held in Netanya. Ambassador Fattal said: The atmosphere of the last Netanya meeting was not bad, and we were very satisfied.

Replying to another question, Ambassador Fattal said Ambassador Habib will not participate in today's meetings. Asked if Ambassador Habib will participate in next week's meetings, Ambassador Fattal said: Who knows if we are going to meet next week? We might finish.

To another question he replied that the discussions will focus on everything, adding that progress has been achieved on all points. However, he did not wish to reveal the kind of progress made and the points covered.

Ambassador Fattal criticized the press for concentrating on the word "routine." He also declined to comment on a question about the report carried by some information media that had the U.S. Embassy incident not happened, an agreement would have been reached.

As for Ambassador Draper, he told journalists: Today we will discuss the subjects that are still pending, including the security arrangements which will be included in the general agreement.

With regard to the military committee, one of the members pointed out that today's discussions will again center on the question of security arrangements and that efforts will continue to resolve the problems and points of disagreement.

Cargo Ship Towed to Beirut After Piracy Attempt
NC211051 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] The 1,200-ton-capacity cargo ship (Victoria Ould) carrying vehicles and furniture to the U.S. Embassy in Zaire was last night subjected to an act of piracy on the high seas and was being towed to the port of Tripoli. However, an Army gunboat learned of the attempt and ordered the authorities concerned to tow the ship to quay 4 in Beirut port.

The passports of the 20-member crew were confiscated.

Antiaircraft Fire Opened on Israeli Aircraft
NC201823 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Reports from the Al-Biqa' say that two Israeli military aircraft today flew over the Shtawra area and drew antiaircraft fire.

Franjiyah Alleges Israel Behind Bombing
NC200913 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0725GMT 20 Apr 83

[Report on weekly press conference held by former President Sulayman Franjiyah at his home in Zgharta on 19 April — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah held his weekly press conference yesterday. He spoke about the current developments on the Lebanese arena.

Franjiyah opened his conference saying: The U.S. Embassy in Beirut was blasted yesterday. I pray for mercy for the souls of the innocent victims, both Americans and Lebanese. I wish the wounded an early recovery. I strongly denounce and condemn this cowardly action which was directed against innocent persons and which aimed at assassinating the good efforts which are being exerted to save Lebanon from its ordeal and to restore security and stability in it. If anything, this action indicates the criminal mentality which does not hesitate to commit the most atrocious crimes to serve its own purposes and it does not hesitate to undermine [word indistinct] efforts to serve its evil interests.

I convey deepest condolences to the American people and U.S. President Ronald Reagan through his excellency the U.S. ambassador in Lebanon, whom I congratulate on his escape. I hope that this subversive action will not have any effect on the traditional relations between Lebanon and the United States.

On this occasion, we express our gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil, who expressed the feelings of all the Lebanese when he embarked on his initiative as soon as he heard the tragic news.

President Sulayman Franjiyah added: We must now analyze the causes of this abominable crime. When a crime is committed, the investigator asks: Who benefits from the crime? I permit myself this time to reverse the question. I ask: Who is harmed by the new good relations and the difference in the past and present U.S. stands? We do not forget that following the enemy's invasion of our land, the United States inceased its annual aid to the enemy. However, as we said the last time, the human conscience must act. This is what happened following the new stand adopted by President Reagan. The new stand made President Reagan look at the Lebanese question and the Arab question from all angles and not from [word indistinct] Israel only. He adopted a [word indistinct] initiative and sent his envoy, who is still shuttling among some Arab capitals. It is understood that the U.S. political stance on the Arab-Lebanese issue has been somewhat modified in our interests.

The U.S. envoy went to Israel carrying new proposals. He naturally presented them to those concerned in Israel and here. The Lebanese were optimistic after his return from the United States but pessimism prevailed again soon afterward. However, the last visit of the U.S. envoy revived some of our optimism. This indicates that he has finally become aware of the Lebanese view.

This is concerning the Lebanese question. However, the big crime, which was committed and which deserves punishment for blasting an embassy and for killing and wounding, is [words indistinct]. President Reagan's contact with President al-Asad on the occasion of the evacuation anniversary in fraternal Syria is an unforgivable crime from Israel's viewpoint. The penalty this act deserves is the blasting of the U.S. Embassy, its contents, and the people who were in it.

Another evidence is the announcement by the side claiming responsibility for this crime. This side calls itself the Islamic Jihad Organization [Munazzamat al-Jihad al-Islami]. It is historically known and agreed upon that the al-Jihad is followed by only one word, namely [word indistinct]. This criminal is ignorant of even our history and traditions. (?The attribution) of the Islamic struggle to this quarter or organization is only meant to divert the attention of the world — which does not know our traditions — from the real criminal.

President Franjiyah went on saying: We will now turn back to the negotiations. We said, and we repeat, that if these negotiations produce anything, the result would only be our loss of the world and the hereafter. We add today that the continuation of the negotiations provides the Israeli enemy with an acceptable excuse to evade international pressure and, especially, internal pressure. The enemy can protest to whoever wants to help us that he is in a state of negotiations and that he must be given some time. Regarding this enemy's internal situation, he knows that he has not reaped any benefits from Lebanon. In such a case, how can be Lebanon's invasion and their own loss of life be justified to the Israeli citizen? If the reports are true, this citizen, despite the fact that he has been reared on crime, began grumbling about the Israeli presence, which is always exposed to dangers, in Lebanon.

The following dialogue then took place between President Franjiyah and the reporters:

Question: Following your past pessimism, Your Excellency said that Mr Habib's attendance at the negotiations sessions has spread optimism. How do you interpret Habib's statements after his meeting with the Egyptian president in which he excluded the possibility of an early agreement between Lebanon and Israel?

Answer: What I said is only a conclusion by me after the embassy incident yesterday. Habib moved from Beirut to Israel and then returned to Beirut. Yesterday's incident occurred following this shuttle and following the letter which President Reagan sent to His Excellency President al-Asad. This is the basis for my optimism.

Question: Lebanon has drawn up redlines, which cannot be traversed, for the negotiations. What are these lines in your opinion?

Answer: We reiterate that for the lines to be in our interest, the negotiations must be stopped and the enemy must leave our sacred land without any restrictions or conditions.

Question: Following the recent developments, observers expect the pressure to be turned to Beirut in order to reach an agreement with Israel. What is Your Excellency's opinion?

Answer: Any agreement with Israel even if its a white paper signed by a Lebanese representative and by the enemy will make us lose the world and the hereafter.

Question: Some views have emerged demanding the conclusion of some sort of a treaty with the United States to avert the Israeli danger. What is your opinion on this?

Answer: An agreement with the United States alone will be of no benefit to us. If agreements must be concluded, then let them be concluded with the five permanent member-states of the Security Council.

Question: Some believe that if its political efforts fail, Washington would be compelled to ponder the military solution through an Israeli-Syrian confrontation to safeguard the U.S. positions in the area.

Answer: If we were to base our attitude on what we hear from the Syrian information media, then we could implore God Almighty to bring this date closer — the date of the confrontation. From a military point of view, we are today different from what we were yesterday. Tomorrow, God willing, will be better than today vis-a-vis the position of fraternal Syria. Israel and the United States are aware of this situation. Their threats are lessening.

Question: Some U.S. presidents, inlcuidng President Reagan, have expressed their commitment to the unity of Lebanon. Do you believe that there is a real change in the U.S. Administration

in the interests of Lebanon?

Answer: Most of the U.S. presidents pledged to guarantee the safety of the Lebanese people and territory. Regrettably, however, when Lebanon needed the implementation of this pledge, we saw not one serious action by the United States to safeguard the people and land of Lebanon.

Question: Does Your Excellency accuse Israel of blasting the U.S. Embassy building in Beirut?

Answer: The accusation is clear 100 percent. Had this action been implemetned by the one who claimed responsibility for it, he should have then carried it out the day the invasion began or the day the enemy reached the gates of the capital or even after he entered Beirut. However, the difference between the Arab human spirit and the Israeli criminal spirit is that the Arab forgives whereas the Israeli commits the most atrocious crimes if they serve his interests. If we go back to history, we would find out that the blowing up of the King David Hotel [in Jerusalem in 1947] was no less atrocious than the blasting of the U.S. Embassy. Those who committed the crime of blasting the King David Hotel are themselves planning the enemy's policy now.

Question: Israel has agents in Beirut and elsewhere in the area. Do you believe that they are working to stir up sedition and disturbances again?

Answer: This is nothing new. Israel has agents not only in Beirut but everywhere in Lebanon. What is happening now in our capital or Tripoli or what has happened in Zgharta yesterday, when a citizen's car was blown up, is nothing but Israeli plans to preoccupy the Lebanese with each other and make them forget, perhaps, the Israeli presence on our sacred land.

Question: [Former Chamber of Deputies] Speaker 'Adil 'Usayran warned about a possible Israeli penetration [tamaddud] of the Al-Biqa' and the north. What is your opinion?

Answer: I answer you that we are impatiently waiting for this penetration in order, as we hope, to give Israel a lesson which is not expected from us. This is not because we are braver or better warriors than others but because of our dependence on the land, which God Almighty has blessed us with, which is easier to defend than the south or Al-Biqa'.

Question: Do you believe that some of the recent incidents in some areas in the north are a continuation of an infernal plan, which you previously warned against?

Answer: This is not a beginning but it is a continuation of a plan to which we had previously drawn attention and we are drawing attention to it again now. We thank God that the popular awareness has proved so far to be the barrier between what happens and what the enemy hopes will happen.

Damascus Radio on U.S. Embassy Explosion

JN201535 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Israel, represented by its foreign minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, and its newspapers and radio, has exploited the U.S. Embassy incident in Beirut to ask the United States to support Israeli demands in Lebanon. These are the well-known demands that contradict the UN Security Council resolutions calling for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Lebanese territory. These demands are also contradictory to Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and right to fully control all Lebanese territory, airspace, and waters.

What draws attention is that the Israeli rulers have applied a great deal of pressure in the negotiations with Lebanon to obtain concessions which would allow them to get their hands on a part of Lebanon's sovereignty and on its role in the Arab world in the fields of economy, politics, services, and banking. These concessions also would allow them to appear before the world as actually seeking security, safety, and salvation from terrorism and terrorists. What also draws a great deal of attention is that the U.S. Embassy incident in Beirut comes as if recommended by them, in order to use it to support their intransigence in the tripartite negotiations, to justify their demands for regional, military, political, and economic gains in Lebanon, and to support their claims that the Lebanese authorities, UNIFIL, and the multinational force are unable or unqualified to guarantee security, stability, and tranquillity in Lebanon.

The Israeli rulers' behavior and their press indicate that they are the only party which benefits from the explosion which took place in the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. Through the Israeli demands in the tripartite negotiations, and now through Israel's exploitation of the U.S. Embassy incident in Beirut, one of the basic problems emerges — a problem which hinders the achievement of peace in the region and prevents the progress of any sincere effort to creat the circumstances and atmosphere appropriate to achieving just solutions based on the principles of the UN Charter, UN resolutions, the provisions of international law, and the peoples' right to self-determination and sovereignty over their territories, waters, and airspace.

In dealing with the other states, the United Nations, their U.S. friends, and the parties to the conflict, the Israeli rulers present only those demands which others cannot accept, because these demands directly affect independence, sovereignty, national soil, and the right to self-determination and dignity. In order to impose these demands, the Israeli rulers use Arab territory and rights as a hostage in their hands for pressure and blackmail. If the dictum of territory in return for peace has deceived some people in the past, then Israel's practices on the land have affirmed that the Israeli rulers want the territory, peace, security, rights, present, and future of others. The method of taking hostages to impose conditions and demands is the method of terrorists who violate the law and seek rewards for their violations and aggression against others.

The issue in the Middle East is not one of compromise under the pressure of taking hostages or under the force of U.S. arms in the Israeli rulers' hands; it is an issue of principles respected by the international community, which has made them a regulator of international relations. In view of this issue — the issue of the international principles and norms proclaimed in the UN Charter, international law, and human rights — there is no possibility of compromise. These principles are either to be accepted or not, foremost of them the right of the people to self-determination, including the establishment of an independent national state on national soil, the election of legitimate representatives, the impermissibility of annexing the lands of others by force, the impermissibility of using force to impose the will of others and expansion, the impermissibility of seizing the rights of others, and the prevention of aggression. If these principles are accepted, then the basic course toward peace will be achievable. Therefore, there will be no need for compromises, bartering, and cheating. If these principles are not available, then there will be no bartering, but a request to those having rights to relinquish them, to those having land to relinquish it, and to those having principles to offer concessions to those who violate the law.

The Arabs, and foremost of them Syria, are not ready to compromise on territory, principles, or rights. The territory and rights are their own. They will not relinquish them regardless of sacrifice.

AL-BATH Links Embassy Incident to Israeli Aims

JN210825 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Press review]

[Text] In an editorial headlined "The Futile Drills in the Tests of Negotiations and Authorization," today's AL-BA'TH writes: Israel hastened to exploit the U.S. Embassy incident in the interest of its aggressive, hostile aims and to get remuneration for its invasion of Lebanon. After committing murder and marching in the funeral procession of its victim, Israel asked for a ransom. The ransom Israel wants this time is the occupation of all Lebanon and the Israeli forces' control of Beirut in particular, claiming that the Lebanese Government is unable to guarantee security and tranquillity anywhere in Lebanon after the embassy incident.

Israel, which discovered that negotiations with Lebanon are merely a futile drill, wants to bring the situation back to square one, particularly after realizing that the failure of Reagan's plan, which was afflicted by a deadly strategic setback in the wake of the results of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, has also forced the U.S. plans for the region to revert to square one.

AL-BA'TH adds: Therefore, what is important for Tel Aviv at present is to consolidate its position in Lebanon as part of the large-scale preparations to launch a major aggression against Syria. It is certain that as an important part of these preparations Israel is paving the way for the withdrawal of the multinational force and canceling the need for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon through procrastination and delay via the long and futile game of negotiations.

Commenting on the statement the new Israeli Chief of Staff Moshe Levi made yesterday to the effect that thewar in Lebanon has not ended yet, the paper says: There is no doubt that by the next war Levi means Syria. All the completed military preparations and aggressive plans endorsed by the CIA director during his recent visit to Israel are the alternative being prepared by Washington and Tel Aviv, not only to revive Reagan's plan but also to rescue Camp David and generalize it according to the desire of agent Arab regimes that almost lost hope in a U.S. role in the region.

AL-BA'TH adds: However, the policy of force and aggression adopted by Washington and Tel Aviv through their sick plans in the region will not be the sound solution to the region's developments the U.S. Administration imagines. This is due to several reasons, the most important of which are:

1. The failure of Reagan's plan, which the U.S. Administration has thus far not admitted, proved that the victories the United States scored during the Zionist invasion of Lebanon were not victories from the strategic point of view. Washington is increasingly failing to turn the Middle East into a U.S. ranch. In other words, the legend that 99 percent of the solution cards are in U.S. hands has been disproved and wagering on the value of a unilateral U.S. role in the region has been shattered.

2. The failure of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, which called for a Palestinian authorization to the Jordanian king, and the subsequent rabid U.S. campaigns against the PLO and its strategic allies in the region stressed that the Palestinian question is the crux of the Middle East conflict and that the PLO is the Palestinian Arab people's sole legitimate representative.

3. Syria's stand and steadfastness proved right from the beginning that Syria is capable of turning the region's conflict in the interest of Arab rights and pan-Arab commitment to the central Arab cause of Palestine. It has been evident that Syria's giant steps toward establishing a strategic balance directly reflect on the Palestinian question, supplying it with the requirements of power no matter how much the Arab situation may deteriorate.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: In short we can say that failure will lead to another failure not only of Reagan's plan but also of the entire joint U.S.-Zionist-reactionary strategy in the Arab homeland.

TISHRIN: Syria Strengthens Lebanese Negotiator

JN210919 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, 21 Apr (SANA) — In an article entitled "War Drums," TISHRIN Today refers to the Israeli threats and warnings to Syria and to the statements by certain Zionist officials warning of the return of fedayeen action to southern Lebanon and the fact that the Lebanon war is not over yet. The paper says these statements and Israel's general political and mmilitary moves can only be construed as obvious preparation for aggression against Syria.

The paper points out that the Israeli warnings to Lebanon are in fact directly addressed to Syria. Experience has proved that the firmness of the Lebanese negotiator stems from the firmness of the Syrian stand. The Lebanese realize that the Syrian forces are in Lebanon to serve that Arab country and strengthen the position of the Lebanese negotiator.

TISHRIN says: Israel is fully aware of these facts, but also thinks that a surprise military strike against Syria would render it incapable of backing the Lebanese negotiator and would make room for U.S. and Israeli political and military pressure to carry out partition plans.

The paper adds: But Syria has made it clear more than once that it will not permit Israel to achieve any military, geographical, political, or economic gains in Lebanon. Such gains would greatly jeopardize Syria's security. If Israel is now beating the war drums in the hope that a U.S. green light is forthcoming, Syria is preparing itself for all possibilities. Syria would like to point out that any Israeli military adventure will have bad consequences.

AL-BA'TH: U.S. Strategy Facing 'Acute Crisis'

PM202017 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 14 Apr 83 p 1

[Chief Editor Turki Saqr article: "The Impossible Resuscitation of the 'Last Chance' Plan"]

[Excerpts] The furious U.S. reaction following the PLO Executive Committee's announcement that it refuses to give authorization or mandate for negotiations on its behalf and its total adherence to the Palestinian people's rights has revealed the extent of the failure of the Reagan plan in particular and the acuteness of the crisis facing U.S. strategy in the area in general.

The disappointment that was evident in President Reagan's and Secretary of State George Shultz's statements is no doubt a result of the outright collapse of the U.S. plans. Washington thought the Palestinian-Jordanian talks in Amman would give it permission to enter every Arab home, do away with the acceptable minimum the Arabs agreed upon at Fes, and revive Camp David so that the United States can dominate all the Arab homeland through the false settlement proposed by the Reagan plan.

Before the Amman talks the U.S. Administration sought to create the impression and to implant in the minds of the Arabs that it is possible to combine two opposites, the Reagan plan and the Fes resolutions. Washington thought its propaganda statements about halting Zionist settlements and suspending the delivery of F-16 aircraft to Israel would be enough for the Arab to be convinced of its veracity.

But these allegations soon collapsed and it soon transpired that the U.S. decisions to bring pressure to bear on Israel were merely ink on paper. Israel immediately announced plans for building 57 settlements and it transpired that the F-16 planes are contracted for the coming years, when President Reagan will no longer be in the White House.

Despite the blow to the Reagan plan 7 months after it was offered to the Arab markets, and despite the fact that the gamble on the United States has failed, the United States has not admitted that this was a fatal blow to the plan; thus it has launched a new

frenzied campaign of personal contacts between Reagan and a number of Arab rulers in order to salvage what is left of the plan. Shultz made it clear that the principal goal of this campaign is to rescind the Arab summit resolution in Rabat which provides that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Along with this campaign there is another U.S. campaign of threats to punish the Arab forces which Washington called the forces of Arab extremism which have vetoed the U.S. plan in the area.

These American attempts stand no better chance than the previous ones that preceded the Reagan plan and which gave the green light to Israel to invade Lebanon; nor do the encouragements and inducements that came along with the plan in question. The recent U.S. strategic failure has deepened the belief in the Arab homeland and in the world that the U.S. plans, including Reagan's plan, have absolutely nothing to do with genuine peace since they are based on capitulation and imposing the Israeli solution on the Arabs.

Therefore, it can be emphasized that the factors and causes that have led to the failure of the U.S. plan— foremost of which is Syria's steadfastness and the firmness of its political and national stand in the face of the Israel-U.S. hostile plans and the solid backing this stand is being given by the Soviet Union and the friends of a just world peace— will not vanish as Washington imagines. Rather they will continue to follow an ascending line that will thwart all new U.S. plans, curb all the feeble Arab rulers falling into the trap of such plans, and cut off every hand that tries to tamper with the portentous Arab resolutions that confirm adherence to Arab rights and to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

Shots Fired in Beirut Near British Embassy

TA211114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] It has just been reported from Beirut that several shots were directed before noon toward the area where the British Embassy is located, and not toward the U.S. Embassy as had been reported earlier. The spokesman of the U.S. Marines who are guarding the U.S. Embassy, at a distance of about 1 km from the area, said it appears that Lebanese Army soldiers who are stationed on the coastal road directed shots toward a car which was traveling very fast. Several U.S. Marines took cover behind cars and prepared their arms, but did not fire.

At the same time, the rescue operations and removal of debris at the U.S. Embassy compound is continuing. During the night, six more bodies were extracted from the debris, five of which wereAmericans.

Military Denies Knowledge of Syrian Air Fire

TA201940 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1920 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon radio station reported this evening that earlier this afternoon the Syrians fired antiaircraft fired at two Israeli fighter planes which were flying in Lebanese airspace in the Al-Biqa' area, over the town of Shtawrah. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus, who brought us this report, notes that this is the first time in a long time that our planes have been fired on.

Last week air force planes made many flights over the Syrian military deployment in Lebanon, but the Syrians held back their fire.

This evening military sources reported that they knew nothing about antiaircraft fire at our planes from any source whatsoever.

Habib Continues Efforts To Aid Peace Talks

Habib-Shamir Meeting

TA201546 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] U.S. special envoy Philip Habib is leaving for Beirut this evening. This morning he met with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. In the meeting, Shamir said Israel insists on its demand [tevi'ata] that Haddad be given a senior command post in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Sha'ul Stav reports:

[Begin Stav recording] The meeting between Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. envoy Philip Habib was held today under the shadow of the blast in the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. One of the assessments that arose following this terrorist act was that the operators of the booby-trapped car intended to try to assassinate Philip Habib.

At the beginning of the meeting Shamir told his U.S. guest he was happy to see him safe and sound. All of us, Shamir said — both the Israeli Government and people — are shocked by the tragedy, by the loss of life in the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. We hope and pray, Shamir said, that this was the last terrorist attack against Americans in the Middle East. Habib thanked Shamir for his warm remarks, but refused to address himself directly to the conclusions the foreign minister drew from the Beirut tragedy.

Shamir said that the explosion in the embassy only reinforces Israel's demands [tevi'oteha] for appropriate security arrangements in southern Lebanon. The joint efforts made for the liquidation of terrorism should be intensified and an Israeli-Lebanese agreement should be reached as soon as possible, Minister Shamir said. Habib noted that progress has been made in the formulation of the agreement although there are still disputed issues.

This talk between Shamir and Habib also indicates that the major dispute is still that of Major Haddad's status and duties in the framework of the security arrangements in southern Lebanon. The foreign minister reiterated Israel's demand [tevi'a] that Haddad head the territorial brigade in southern Lebanon. He asked Habib to raise this demand [tevi'a] again, and try to convince Lebanese President al-Jumayyil of the justness of this demand [tevi'a].

Another issue in the negotiations which is still pending,although as a marginal one for the time being, concerns UNIFIL. The Lebanese representatives raised a demand [derisha] that UNIFIL supervise the safety of the Palestinian residents in the Ar-Rashidiyah and 'Ayn al-Hulwah camps. It is not clear whether it is Lebanon that demands [tova'at] this or whether the Lebanese representatives are only conveying messages from the UNIFIL force. In any event, it was already agreed between Israel and Lebanon that it will not be UNIFIL but the Lebanese Army which will ensure security in southern Lebanon. The matter of safeguarding the camps has not yet been concluded. [end recording]

Haddad Issue Hinders Talks

TA210522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] The talks over the Lebanese issue resume in Khaldah today. However, political elements in Jerusalem say that there is no longer any sense in continuing the talks given their present situation. The government must decide whether it is ready for an arrangement with Lebanon without a comprehensive presence in southern Lebanon based on Haddad, or whether it wants to remain in southern Lebanon with Haddad, but without an arrangement.

These elements told our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that envoy Habib does not at all intend to persuade President al-Jumayyil to make further concessions, since the United States also thinks that by strengthening Haddad, Israel is only seeking to reinforce its presence in southern Lebanon.

Our correspondent points out that the way to oversee the security arrangements in the south has already been agreed upon in the

negotiations, but Lebanon demands that Haddad's forces control a strip of land 19 kms from the border, while Israel demands that the distance be 45 kms.

Habib Comments on Syria

TA201621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Before leaving for Beirut today, Philip Habib conferred with Labor Party leaders Peres, Rabin, Bar-Lev, and Dinitz. According to Habib, Syria will have to fulfill its share in the arrangements in Lebanon and to evacuate its army from there. At the same time Ambassador Habib emphasized that he rules out negotiations with Syria simultaneously with the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations. In his opinion, this would enable Damascus to veto Israel's achievements in the negotiations.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the Labor Party leaders stressed their party's demand [derishat] for appropriate security arrangements in southern Lebanon. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres also expressed shock about the disaster at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

21 April Khaldah Talks

TA211230 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] This morning, the talks between Israel and Lebanon were resumed in Khaldah with the participation of the United States. Philip Habib is not taking part in the talks, at any event not for the moment. This morning the status of the liaison offices that are to be established between the two countries after an agreement is achieved was discussed, and there was also a discussion about the incorporation of Haddad's forces into the Lebanese Army units to be stationed in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports from Khaldah:

[Einstein] Increased security precautions are being taken today in the region of the Lebanon Beach Hotel, where the talks are being held. The increased security precautions are, of course, the result of this week's explosion at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. The convoy of cars of the U.S. delegation was given a close guard by the Lebanese security forces. Heading the U.S. delegation is Morris Draper. Philip Habib is not participating in the talks.

Today, the plenary deliberations were given up and they at once began with contacts in two committees. The political committee, which includes delegation heads Draper, Fattal, and Kimche, discussed the issue of the immunity to be given to the liaison offices that are to be established in Israel and Lebanon after an arrangement is achieved. The military committee discussed the issue of the incorporation of Major Haddad's forces in the Lebanese Army units that are to be positioned as part of the security arrangements in southern Lebanon.

Sources from the Israeli delegation say: We must wait patiently; there is no point in getting into a pressure situation after we have made a long, exhausting way in the negotiations. It is too simplistic to present matters as though Israel were faced with two possibilities: an arrangement without a presence in southern Lebanon, or a presence in southern Lebanon without an arrangement. Avi Pazner, the delegation's spokesman, said:

[Begin Pazner recording] These are serious negotiations. Patience is needed, and if we have reached the point where we have already solved such a great number of problems, we must be somewhat patient and solve the remaining problems. [end recording]

In Beirut in the meantime, statements are being heard that mean all elements must indeed be patient in order to reach an agreement. Foreign Minister Elie Salim said yesterday: There are still five obstacles on the road to achieving an arrangement. All the obstacles, so Salim said, have their origins in Israel's demands [derishot]. We, Salim said, referring to the issue of Haddad, are not prepared to concede anything concerning the integrity of our homeland.

Another proof of the deadlock in the contacts: Last night Philip Habib said, at a meeting with the Lebanese foreign minister, that over the last few days he had not been in contact with Secretary of State Shultz, since he had nothing new to report.

Begin Comments on Lebanese Talks, Settlement

TA201917 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Begin said that Israel's major objective in Lebanon has not yet been attained. The situation there is very complicated, and therefore Israel finds itself in difficult negotiations about the security arrangements necessary to guarantee its safety. He emphasized that there are obstacles on the way toward achieving Israel's goals which are: returning the IDF from Lebanon, getting the prisoners of war released, and achieving security for the people of Israel.

In a meeting of the Jabotinsky Movement's veterans in Metzudat Ze'ev [the Likud's headquarters in Tel Aviv] Menahem Begin also emphasized that Israel will not agree to any prohibition on the settlement of Jews in Eretz Yisra'el. He termed as childish the claim that one should not settle in the midst of a dense Arab population, noting that the intention is to live together with the Arabs and have good neighborly relations with them, not to expropriate anything from them, nor to expel them from their land.

Rejects U.S. Proposals

TA210702 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Appearing at a meeting of the Jabotinsky Movement's veterans, Prime Minister Menahem Begin utterly rejected the U.S. proposals seeking to freeze settlements in the West Bank and favoring the return of the Golan Heights to Syria. Our correspondent on party affairs Amnon Nadav was at the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Nadav] A report was published a few days ago according to which U.S. President Reagan informed Syrian President al-Asad that in the framework of the peace

negotiations,the return of the Golan Heights to Syria would also be discussed. Addressing this issue, Prime Minister Menahem Begin declared last night:

[Begin] About 1 and 1/2 years ago the Knesset passed a law saying: Israel's law, jurisdiction, and administration will apply to the Golan Heights. I want to inform everybody this evening that, indeed, I repeat the wording of the law: The State of Israel's law, jurisdiction, and administration apply, and will apply to the Golan Heights. [applause]

[Nadav] The prime minister also rejected the notion of freezing settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, saying that Israel is ready to carry out the ideas it proposed in the Camp David accords and that it will not accept any bans on Jewish settlements in Eretz Yisra'el.

Referring to the Reagan plan and all the rest, Menahem Begin said that we are definitely true friends of the United States and the free world, but we cannot forego the principle that agreements between nations must be honored, thus referring to the Camp David accords.

Addressing himself to the Lebanese issue, the prime minister said he hoped an agreement would be reached and that the security desired by Israel would be attained. However, the situation in Lebanon is very complicated at present:

[Begin] Therefore, this is the reason why we are engaged in difficult negotiations for assuring conditions; security arrangements which will make certain that this bloody affair and aggression does not recur. There is no doubt whatsoever that there are many obstacles on the way. However, we must be aware of our main goal and we should not give up on it. We want to bring the sons back to their homes, parents, and families. We want that from the bottom of our hearts and souls, as soon as possible. We want to see our prisoners released. We want to see the Israeli people living in peace and security. Therefore, we are insisting on those terms we consider necessary in order to provide security to the Galilee and its inhabitants, to the state and its citizens. [end recording]

Ben-Me'ir Rejects Any Territorial Compromise

TA201828 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir says Israel still rejects the idea of exchanging territory for peace, today as in the past. Reporter David Essing notes that senior American officials have recently raised this proposal. The deputy foreign minister was speaking at the (Jaffe) Institute for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University. He said: We say, peace for peace. Dr Ben-Me'ir added that Israel rejects the idea of territorial compromise, but rather wants a functional compromise — in other words, autonomy. Ben-Me'ir stressed that the peace treaty with Egypt was not a precedent for anything else. He said: If anyone thinks that Israel is going to move thousands of settlers from 100 settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, he is living in a total dreamworld. Ben Me'ir went on to say he hoped the United States realized that uprooting Israelis in the territories is inconceivable.

Knesset Leaders Oppose Unilateral IDF Withdrawal

Rabin Notes Security Goals

TA210630 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Apr 83 p a

[Text] Labour Knesset member Yitzaq Rabin told Kibbutz Movement leaders yesterday that he opposes a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, because "we have not yet achieved the measure of security our settlements need."

Speaking to a conference of younger members of the United Kibbutz Movement at Kibbutz Afiqim, Rabin said the negotiations with Lebanon have not yielded all the results they can for Israel.

"If it appears that the talks have bogged down hopelessly, then we should fall back from the Ash-Shuf mountains to a line 45 kilometres from our northern settlements, and tell the Lebanese to bust their own heads on the problem," said Rabin.

Withdrawal without prior security arrangements means Katyusha rockets falling on our settlements in the north, he concluded.

Peres Cites Foreign Forces

TA210524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Shim'on Peres says that the informal security arrangments which existed in the past in southern Lebanon are better than the arrangements that may be attainable at present. At the end of a tour in Karmi'el, MK Peres told our correspondent Gabi Zohar that he is opposed to an Israeli unilateral withdrawal, because it will affect the chances for reaching an agreement for the evacuation of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Peres Outlines Five-Point Plan for Mideast

TA200821 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2240 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv, 19 Apr (ITIM) — MK Shim'on Peres today raised a five-point plan for solving the situation in the region in a seminar about "Israel and U.S. Foreign Defense Policies" which was combined with a ceremony at which the Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University was named after Mel and Sheila (Yaffe) from the United States.

The Labor Party chairman pointed out that he does not believe the United States feels committed to achieving a certain solution in the Middle East, but that it feels obliged to finding some solution. In contrast, he believes that Israel should adhere to one and only one solution; a solution which would not endanger its security and its democratic nature. The five points of the plan are as follows:

— Evacuation of all foreign forces from Lebanon, while putting off a final solution on the question of Major Haddad and his forces until 1 year after the evacuation.

— A joint U.S.-Israeli effort to bring King Husayn intonegotiations about outstanding Jordanian-Israeli issues, in an attempt to achieve a preliminary interim agreement to prevent both countries from going back to a policy of confrontation.

— A joint U.S.-Israeli effort to implement autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza through direct negotiations between the leaders of the Palestinians and us.

— A joint U.S.-Israeli attempt to overcome the problems raised by the PLO as the main obstacle to peace in the Middle East.

— A comprehensive development plan for the Middle East in coordination with Egypt and Israel, which would ultimately also include Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and the North African countries.

Arens Views Syrians, U.S. Relations, Lebanon

TA201606 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] There are very worrisome signs regarding Syria's military preparations, but it is not clear to us whether this is a question of preparations for war, or preparations of a defensive nature Defense Minister Moshe Arens today told members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. A broad spectrum of topics came up at the meeting with the defense minister: the war in Lebanon, relations with the United States, the situation in Judaea and Samaria, and the latest IDF appointments. Here in the studio is our correspondent Razi Barqay.

[Barqay] This was a relaxed appearance by Arens. No more of Ari'el Sharon's great storms and, as stated, a long list of topics on the agenda. On the Syrian issue, Professor Arens revealed that there are now 4,000 Soviet technicians in Syria, compared with 2,500 before the war. The Soviet Union, he said, was trying to rehabilitate and equip the Syrian Army, but we have no information as to whether it wants to, or can, curb Damascus.

As for relations with the United States, in reply to a question by MK Ehud Olmert, the defense minister said: There is no doubt that over the past year there has been a U.S. attempt to advance a political solution involving a withdrawal to the 1967 borders. But there is the beginning of a sobering up now in Washington. The Americans have agreed to supply Israel with technology for the Lavi engine, and they will also give us another three systems for the completion of the project: wings, tail, and control systems.

There is a sharp decline in the breaches of the peace in the territories, the defense minister claimed. It is our goal to safeguard free traffic along the Judaean and Samarian highways. The settlements are not a burden, but an asset in any possible arrangement, Moshe Arens said.

Minister Arens acted as defense counsel regarding statements by outgoing Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan and told MK Mikha Harish of the Alignment: In the United States, too, a chief of staff expresses himself on security issues, even when they arouse disputes.

The last issue discussed was the war in Lebanon. Arens is optimistic. He rejected Yosi Sarid's claims that we had not achieved anything. Sarid proposed a multinational force — not necessarily Major Haddad — and Arens answered: That is not to be considered. He repeated his support of the Haddad option. Security arrangements with the major, the defense minister said, would be more efficient than they would be without him.

As I said, the committee discussion was calm and even the Alignment's criticism was heard calmly.

Victor Shemtov: We must explain to the Syrians that we have no interest in attacking them. And, in the territories, we must stop a provocative policy; that is, settlements. Beni Shalita, Likud: Any measures against stonethrowers in the West Bank are justified, and when there is no choice, we can fire at their feet. Hayim Druckman: If we were to adopt Shemtov's theory, we would have to evacuate the entire State of Israel. Mikha Harish asked the defense minister about the scope of the U.S. embargo and Arens replied: This is a question of F-16 planes only. Ehud Olmert: The question is not who was right in the earlier assessments about Lebanon, but what should we insist upon now. A unilateral withdrawal in Lebanon will not help at all. It would only institutionalize the Syrian presence there. Olmert repeated his reservations about the publicization with banners and trumpets, as he phrased it, of the establishment of settlements. We must settle wisely, he said. Why should we wave a red cape in front of the Americans? Yosi Sarid: The government is obstinately insisting on saving Haddad because that, in fact, is its only achievement from this unnecessary war. The status quo in Lebanon is insufferable, from our aspect. If we do not withdraw, we will find ourselves forced to move forward to a confrontation with the Syrians.

Haddad's Forces To Begin Replacing IDF

TA210629 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Apr 83 p a

[Report by Hirsh Godman]

[Text] Major Sa'd Haddad's army will be declared fully operational within the next two weeks, and will start replacing Israel Defence Force units in southern Lebanon, THE JERUSALEM POST learns.

Until now Haddad's forces have confined themselves in south Lebanon to inducting volunteers, carrying out highly visible military tasks of marginal operational value, and manning roadblocks. Since last year, however, Haddad's estimated 1,500 men have been undergoing intensive training in Israel and south Lebanon. At the same time, his units have been organized into integral battalions, along the lines of a regular Lebanese Army brigade. To this end a command structure almost identical to that of a Lebanese brigade has been established, including logistics' chain-of-command and support services. Since a Lebanese brigade comprises about 3,000 men — almost double the number of men Haddad has under arms — a skeleton brigade has been established, with Haddad's men holding most of the key positions.

The goal is to add regular Lebanese personnel to the skeleton brigade once a security agreement is worked out by Lebanon, Israel and the U.S., leaving Haddad's men in control of what for all intents and purposes will be a regular brigade in the Lebanese Army.

By the first week of May, Haddad's forces will gradually start replacing IDF units in south Lebanon, allowing Israel to lessen its reserve-duty burden. This will entail manning positions, regular patrols, and other duties performed by the IDF in the south. Until now Haddad's forces have worked in tandem with IDF forces, but never independently.

Haddad has one battalion deployed in Sidon, most of his forces unemployed, and another skeleton battalion in towns and villages bordering the Al-Biqa' in southeastern Lebanon. The training and organization of his forces, supervised by the IDF, has been going on for almost six months. They were supposed to have been declared operational four weeks ago, but the decision to do so was postponed until early May.

In addition to the 1,500 men he has on active service, it is believed that Haddad can call up around 2,000 reserves in time of emergency. The military standard of the reservists, however, is said to be poor.

Declaring Haddad's forces operational has a two-fold purpose: to free Israeli troops wherever possible, and to lay the groundwork for an integral battalion with a command structure that Israel feels it can rely on after the IDF withdraws.

Begin Sends Condolence Message to Reagan
TA200851 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 19 Apr 83

["Text of Prime Minister Begin's cable of condolence to President Reagan" — GPO headline]

[Text] Dear Ron,

I write in the name of all Israel when I express to you my deep shock at the terrible outrage which took the lives of so many of the American Embassy in Beirut yesterday. We mourn the dead and we express our profound condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Yours respectfully and sincerely,

Menahem.

Britain To Consider Request for Lavi Technology
TA201121 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Apr 83 p 1

[Report on "exclusive" interview with British Defense Secretary Michael Heseltine by Yosi Melman; date and place not given]

[Text] London — Britain will seriously consider an Israeli request to purchase knowledge, equipment, or technology for the Lavi aircraft, stated British Secretary of State for Defense Michael Heseltine in a special interview with HA'ARETZ. He was thus reacting to publications that Israel may approach some West European countries and ask them for assistance in manufacturing the new fighter if the United States persists in its refusal to transfer knowhow and technology for this project.

Referring to this issue, the British defense secretary said that an official Israeli request had not yet been received, but that "if such a request is submitted, we will seriously consider it and we will conduct a relevant discussion on every request."

According to foreign publications, including a report in the British aviation weekly "FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL," the Israeli Aircraft Industries [IAI] want to acquire knowhow and technology for the construction of the wings of the aircraft which is scheduled to replace the Kfir in the Air Force's active service.

The HA'ARETZ correspondent points out that already in the late 1970's, IAI representatives contemplated the possibility of acquiring the engine for the Lavi from the British Rolls-Royce company, which builds the engine for the versatile Tornado fighter, but "these feelers" received negative responses.

Replying to another question, the British defense secretary said that "stability in the Middle East is an important strategic asset for Britain, West Europe, and NATO and, therefore, Britain will proceed with its efforts to promote peace between Israel and the Arab countries in order to bring stability to the region."

ALGERIA

APS: Minister Nabi Holds Talks With GDR'S Kleiber

LD201121 Algiers APS in English 1011 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Algiers, 20/4/83 (APS) — Mr Mohamed Nabi, minister of vocational training, audienced yesterday in Algiers, Mr Guenther Kleiber, substitute member of the Politburo of the GDR Unified Socialist Party [as received], deputy president of the Council of Ministers, minister of the construction of agricultural machines and vehicles.

Talks were centered on questions relating to to the preparation of the works of the Algerian-GDR joint committee. On another turn, the two ministers dealt with problems relating to the sector of vocational training and notably those relating to the frame and the modalities of the achievement of technico-pedagogical operations of equipments.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Regrets Aircraft Incident in Brazil

LD201637 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Apr (JANA) — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, commander of the Great 1 September Revolution, has expressed regret at the dishonesty of the official in charge of civil aviation for not informing the friendly Brazilian authorities about the actual contents of the Libyan aircraft flying across the ocean to Nicaragua.

In a statement to JANA today, he said imperialism and Zionism are trying to exploit the matter to disrupt relations between the two friendly countries and to cast doubt about the essence of these relations, just as they did with the Arab countries. He added that the Jamahiriyah has never concealed from the world its support for the Nicaraguan people, because of its realization that the cause of freedom is sacred and just. The Jamahiriyah will continue to support the Nicaraguan people and all peoples struggling for freedom and peace.

JANA Editor on U.S.-Moroccan Military Exercises

LD210241 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Apr (JANA) — JANA'S political editor has commented on the joint U.S.-Moroccan military exercises which are of an aggressive nature and are currently taking place in the eastern waters of the Atlantic Ocean. He stressed that these exercises are an extension of the military exercises carried out by the two countries' forces in the Mediterranean last November. They are also a means of firmly establishing the position of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Forces in Moroccan territories together with the military, air, and naval bases accompanying them. They respond completely to the aggressive objectives of U.S. policy in the region with the intention of rocking the stability of and blatantly encroaching on the progressive countries which have deprived the Pentagon of its previous positions in these areas. The current exercises hold various dangers for the region's countries and their peoples which have rejected U.S. domination.

The Moroccan regime's role in these exercises is designed to leave the door wide open for the U.S. military presence. This role is not a surprise to the region's peoples, especially when the significance of this role becomes clear. It is a role of collusion which ignores the national and pan-Arab sentiments of the Arab and African peoples. At the same time it is considered a symbol of unlimited readiness to commit more of the treacheries which were started by the buried As-Sadat who committed the greatest crime when he recognized the Zionist enemy and knelt under the Israeli flag in occupied Jerusalem.

The significance of such exercises in quite clear: It is to facilitate the U.S. military presence in another part of Arab territory in order to serve the U.S.-Zionist strategic alliance. Hassan II could not but perform this role in implementing the U.S. scheme which has been agreed between him and the Reagan administration. These exercises have gone beyond the alleged and previously announced training pattern to include wider and more dangerous deployments which threaten the security and stability of Africa and the Arab homeland. They aim to expand U.S. military air and naval bases, especially in Casablanca, Kenitra and Sidi (Taman), to include the stripfacing the SDAR, in addition to transforming the Moroccan Army and subjudating it for the interest of imperialist objectives. This is why the U.S. Administration has intensified dispatches of weapons, military equipment, and specialist training teams in order to enable special units of the Moroccan Army to protect imperialist interests and to sustain the symbols which are allied with the U.S. Administration.

ETHIOPIA

Foreign Minister Greets Gromyko on Anniversary

EA202307 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Relations between Ethiopia and the Soviet Union in various fields of cooperation, in line with the aims and stands of the two friendly countries, have brought satisfactory results over the past 9 years. This was disclosed today by Comrade Dr Felleke Gedlegiorgis, foreign minister and COPWE Central Committee member, in a message to Comrade Andrey Gromyko, Politburo member of the CPSU, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and foreign minister, on the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and the Soviet Union.

In his message, Comrade Felleke noted his satisfaction with the close friendship and general cooperation between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and the Soviet Union was celebrated by a public gathering at Addis Ababa city hall today.

Gromyko's Greetings Message

EA202257 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpt] The Soviet Union has expressed its best wishes for further strengthening good relations in all fields of cooperation between Ethiopia and the Soviet Union.

This was disclosed today by Comrade Andrey Gromyko, Politburo member of the CPSU, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and foreign minister, in a message to Comrade Dr Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, foreign minister and member of the COPWE Central Committee, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In his message, Comrade Andrey Gromyko noted that diplomatic relations established 40 years ago have brought the peoples of the two countries together and helped to play an important role in the struggle for strengthening peace and the well-being of nations on the international level.

Comrade Andrey Gromyko expressed the hope that the fruitful relations between the Soviet Union and socialist Ethiopia will be strengthened further in the future.

Insurgents Claim Victory Over Government Forces

EA202322 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Reports reaching us from the bases of the Somalia National Movement [SNM] wing of the Somali opposition forces say that on 17 April the SNM fighters launched a surprise attack on forces still loyal to the dictatorial Barre regime station in (Gumar) village, Hargeisa District. The forces loyal to the regime suffered 10 killed and many wounded. The intrepid fighters of the SNM wing of the Somalia opposition forces suffered no casualties and returned to their bases safely.

UGANDA

Belgian Aircraft Carrying Arms Detained

EA202241 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] The Uganda Government has grounded a charter of the Belgian aircraft carrying a large quantity of live ammunition by Sabena, the owners of the aircraft, nor the Belgian Armed Forces, which are the consignors, when seeking clearance. [sentence as heard]

According to a press release put out by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Kampala today, the aircraft was cleared for landing at Entebbe on its way to Bujumbura and Kigali last Friday. A representative of Sabena in Kampala sought clearance and stated that the aircraft was carrying general cargo to Bujumbura, Burundi. Later a telex message was sent from Brussels, Belgium, the origin of the aircraft, to the effect that in addition to the general cargo the aircraft was also carrying safety blank cartridges of caliber 7.62 millimiters. It was revealed in the telex message that the consignee of the ammunition was the Ministry of Defense, Rwanda, Kigali, and that the consignor was the Belgian Armed Forces.

On landing, the Uganda Government decided to verify the contents of the cargo. The verification exercise proved that in addition to the cargo of blank cartridges, the aircraft was also carrying a large quantity of live ammunition, which neither the owners of the aircraft nor the consignor had disclosed. Consequently the aircraft was grounded. The Governments of Belgium and Rwanda have been informed through their representatives.

CAPE VERDE

President Carries Out Land Reform Program

AB191733 Paris AFP in French 1607 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Praia, 19 Apr (AFP)—On Monday Cape Verdian President Aristides Pereira made the first land distribution to farmers on Santiago Island, where the capital is located. Observers said on Tuesday in Praia that this distribution marks the coming into effect of the land reform law, passed in 1982, which requires landlords to give uncultivated land to farmers who cultivate it. The law also streamlines the cultivation of arable land.

More than 40 percent of Cape Verdian farmers do not own land and have to rent it as sharecroppers or tenant farmers and share the profits with the landowner. In short, according to the land reform, land which has been used for sharecropping or tenant farming and which is over 1 hectar for irrigated land and 5 hectars for unirrigated (2.7 percent of all land) will be taken over by the government after payment of compensation to the owners and will be distributed to the farmers who cultivate it.

Cape Verde, which suffers recurrent drought, has little arable land because of uneven terrain. Out of a 60,000 hectars, only 2,000 hectars are irrigated and are divided into numerous small farms. The government believes that land reform will promote the agricultural sector which presently meets only 40 percent of the country's food needs.

GHANA

PNDC Urged To Open Half-Assini Border Post

AB181731 Accra Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] An appeal has been made to the Provisional National Defense Council to seriously consider the opening of the Half-Assini border post in the west region at least every Saturday. This will enable Ghanaians resident in the Ivory Coast to bring in such food items as rice, flour, and sugar to their relations at home to ease the acute shortage of food in Nzema area. The chief of Jaway, Nana Danyi Kwame, who made the appeal to newsmen at Tikobo No 1, said relatives of Ghanaians living at the other side of the (?Juen lagoon) are prepared to bring in food items to Half-Assini on market days every Saturday. They, however, cannot go through Gonnokrom in the Brong Ahafo region, the only border post in the western frontier which is open. Nana Kwame further said that the opening of the Half-Assini border will enable Ghanaians recently deported from the Ivory Coast to bring along their belongings.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Country To Join West African Organization

AB190808 Paris AFP in English 0740 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Banjul, Gambia, April 19 (AFP) — Guinea-Bissau will become a full member of the Organization for the Development of the Gambia River during the west African body's summit in Dakar in June, Guinea-Bissau Natural Resources Minister Joseph Turpin said here yesterday.

He spoke at a preparatory ministerial meeting of the organisation, which presently comprises Gambia, Guinea and Senegal.

IVORY COAST

Government Warns Teachers Against Strike

AB181303 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 18 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] The National Secondary School Teachers Union of the Ivory Coast [SYNESCI] has called for an unlimited strike as of today, Monday. This strike is to back this union's systematic refusal to accept the government's contributed housing allowance.

The Political Bureau therefore met yesterday together with the members of the government at 1600 yesterday and firmly decided that: **The party and the government will never tolerate any act of indiscipline and disorder.**

Here is the full text of the Political Bureau's statement:

The Politiclal Bureau, together with the government, met today, 17 April 1983, at 1600. The meeting was devoted to the study of the call for a strike announced by the SYNESCI for Monday, 18 April. This strike is meant to support the union's systematic refusal to accept the government's contributed housing allowance.

The Political Bureau recalls that since the announcement of the cancellation of the allocation of administrative houses and the introduction of contributed allowances, the SYNESCI has expressed its systematic opposition to all the measures taken by the National Council. This opposition was confirmed by the Board of Governors of the SYNESCI which met in Bouake in January 1983 and asked the secondary school teachers to stop all negotiations between landlords and tenants — negotiations which were presided over by the prefects and subprefects at the level of arbitration committees.

Since then, the SYNESCI has maintained this attitude despite several meetings with the minister in charge and the minister of construction and urbanism, trying to force the government to restore the free housing system.

— In view of the ill-faith displayed by some secondary school teachers,

— Taking into account the enormous sacrifices made by the nation to the teaching body through the chairman of the party,

— Considering that all the measures of improvement taken by the Political Bureau and the government are of vital necessity to our country in the world's economic crisis,

— Considering that the party and the government cannot tolerate any act of indiscipline and disorder,

— Considering that peace and work for all are necessary for our harmonious development,

— The Political Bureau considers that any work stoppage aimed at hampering the measures of improvement accepted by the whole nation constitutes a rebellion:

The Political Bureau calls upon the government to take severe sanctions againt the strikers immediately.

In order to preserve freedom of work and the right to instruction for the youth of our country, anybody caught in the process of calling for strike or inciting others to trouble will immediately be punished. The Political Bureau calls for vigilance on the part of the frontline officials and militants of the party in order to neutralize the maneuvers whose unavowed intention is to disturb social peace.

Teacher's Union Head Comments

AB182123 Paris AFP in French 1822 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Abidjan, 18 Apr (AFP) — The strike action called on Monday morning by the National Union of Secondary School Teachers of the Ivory Coast [SYNESCI] seems to have been widely followed all over the country according to the first reports received in Abidjan late in the afternoon. SYNESCI Secretary General Laurent Akoun stated to AFP on Monday evening that the strike was followed "100 percent" by the teachers who gave no lessons all day long. Meanwhile, policemen were stationed near the secondary schools of the capital city but no incidents were reported until late in the afternoon.

According to an official source, no statement has been reported yet since the communique issued in Abidjan and broadcast on Sunday night by the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast after a meeting attended by members of the government. The communique described any work stoppage as an "act of rebellion." The Ministry of Education has not announced its position and a new communique is expected from the Political Bureau which was scheduled to hold a meeting today, Monday, at the Congress House at Treichville (a section of Abidjan).

It is reported in Abidjan that the secondary school teachers want to use a work stoppage to demand an alternative solution to the suspension of free housing decided upon by the Ivorian authorities on 1 January this year.

Communique on Strike

AB191016 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 19 Apr 83 p 24

[Communique issued by the Presidency of the Republic of Ivory Coast on 18 April on the secondary school teachers strike]

[Text] The government notes that the right to strike, as provided for in the general law on the civil service can only be exercised for reasons that are connected with the professional activity of those who want to do so.

A number of secondary school teachers, blindly following instructions given by their union, thought it wise to embark on a strike that seriously jeopardizes the interests of our children and those of the parents who make the greatest sacrifices for the education of their children.

Now, in actual fact, this is a strike embarked upon by a minority that refuses to accept the economic reality and does not want to admit that the amenities they have benefited from in the past as regards their housing were only favors and not rights.

However, the government praises all those teachers who have foiled the traps set for them by not supporting the strike and by disassociating themselves from it.

It will be recalled that teachers have already benefited from a special status with regard to the salary scales of the civil service, thus enabling them to earn salaries notably higher than those of other civil servants even though they received the same training for the same number of years as their counterparts in the administrative sector.

The entire population of the Ivory Coast knows that the crisis that is seriously affecting us is due to the drop in the prices of our products and the deterioration in the terms of trade. All Ivorians know this, except some secondary school teachers.

It is this present economic situation that made it impossible for the state to rent apartments and villas for civil servants, as the rents of some of these houses were equal to or even higher than the salaries of those involved.

However, anxious to assist the teachers — as well as other civil servants whose categories were listed in decree No 83-17 of 19 January 1983 — in meeting their housing expenses, the government decided to grant allowances which were fixed with due regard to our budget resources and which, it was hoped, would enable this problem to be solved in the most acceptable of conditions.

Instructions were even given by the president of the Republic for landlords not to evict their tenants but to show great understanding and to come to an agreement on reasonable rents.

The government must acknowledge that in most cases and thanks to the intervention of the prefects and subprefects, the landlords agreed to these arrangements. This was aimed particularly at allowing the teachers to continue their work under normal conditions. It is worth mentioning that due to this action, rents have dropped all over the country and this is an important contribution in the fight against the high cost of living.

Unfortunately, on the orders of the SYNESCI, even the most advantageous arrangements were refused by many teachers. This therefore shows a voluntary act of rebellion on their part which

for some of the instigators of the strike is politcally motivated. This is the case in Seguela where with the intervention of the subprefect general arrangements were made to solve the housing problem.

When they were informed about this happy outcome, the leaders of the SYNESCI ordered their members — even in the absence of any housing problem — to join the action as a sign of solidarity, which the members obeyed.

Consequently, the government feels that the strike carried out by some teachers violates the statutory obligations of the public service and it reminds them that they are confronting the government in a statutory situation which does not accord any right to free housing.

The government therefore considers the strike to be at maintaining all the favors given in the past.

In conclusion, the government takes the following measures:

1. All teachers must resume classes immediately;

2. As of Wednesday morning, 20 April, all those who are not present in class as normal will be considered strikers and as having deserted their posts;

3. Their salaries will be immediately suspended and disciplinary measures provided for in the general statutes of the public service will be taken immediately;

4. All strikers living in government houses will be evicted immediately.

head of government and Minister of National Defense
Minister of:
State for Equipment
State for Economy and Planning
Rural Development
Planning
Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Agriculture
National Education
Public Health and Social Affairs
Finance
Information and Telecommunications
Sports, Arts and Culture
Transport and Public Works
State for State Firms and Enterprises
Interior
Labor and Civil Service
Justice and Keeper of the Seals

The rank of minister of state and the order of nomination determines the order of precedence. The present decree which abrogates decree number 151/PRM of 6 July 1982 will be recorded and published in the official gazette.

Only one change can be noted in the composition of the government of 6 July 1982, that is the removal of the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

That position was occupied by Mr Robert Tieble N'Daw. The present government of the Republic therefore comprises 17 members compared to 18 in the former government.

Public Secondary Schools Closed

AB201418 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Statement from the Presidency of the Republic on teachers strike issued on 20 Apr in Abidjan — read by announcer]

[Text] The president of the Republic, in view of the prevailing situation at the level of the public secondary schools, has made the following decisions:

1. All public secondary schools are closed immediately.

2. The salaries of all striking teachers on the list compiled by the authorities are suspended immediately.

3. The strikers are to be ejected immediately from the state owned houses.

4. The national secondary school teacher union of Ivory Coast [SYNESCI] is suspended. The president of the Republic will make an important statement in the coming hours.

MALI

Cabinet Reshuffled; Energy Minister Dropped

AB192136 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Today, 19 April, a presidential decree has been issued. It is decree number 92/PGRM [expansion unknown] on the nomination of members of government. As of Tuesday, 19 April, the government of the Republic is composed of the following persons:

General Moussa Traore

General Amadou Baba Diarra
Oumar Coulibaly
Mady Diallo
Ahmed Mohamed Ag Hammani
Alioune Blondin Beye
N'fagnanama Kone
Lieutenant Colonel Sekou Ly
Ngolo Traore
Drissa Keita
Mrs Gakou nee Fatou Niang
N'tji Idrissa Mariko
Mamadou Haidara
Bandiougou Bidia Doukoure
Lieutenant Colonel Abderhamane Maiga
Modibo Keita
Major Issa Kongoiba

NIGERIA

Cameroon President Arrives on 3-Day Visit

AB191237 Paris AFP in French 1141 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Lagos, 19 Apr (AFP) — Cameroonian President Paul Biya arrived in Lagos on Tuesday morning, accompanied by several ministers, for a 3-day official visit to Nigeria.

Mr Biya, who is paying his first official visit outside Cameroon, was welcomed upon arrival by President Shehu Shagari, Vice President Alex Ekwueme, Foreign Minister Professor Ishaya Audu, as well as several other Nigerian ministers.

Shagari-Biya Talks Reported

AB200658 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Nigeria and Cameroon today began talks on bilateral relations aimed at intensifying cooperation between them. At the opening of the talks at State House, Ribadu Road, President Shehu Shagari and President Paul Biya of Cameroon, who are leading their delegations, emphasized the close ties that have existed between their countries.

President Shagari remarked that such ties were not merely those of neighbors where it suffices only to maintain such a good neighborliness, rather, the two countries were inseparable, bound together by historical, ethnocultural, and socioeconomic factors in such a way that any notable occurrence on one side of the border has immediate repercussions on the other side. President Shagari said it was therefore imperative for both countries to cooperate closely and actively not only for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity but also for the achievement of the aspirations of their peoples. He expressed the hope that the talks will be aimed at the identification and the elimination of problems that tended to cause misunderstanding and friction. President Shagari noted that the scope for more meaningful bilateral cooperation for the mutual advantage of the two countries was wise and the possibilities vast.

In his remarks, President Biya stated that the Nigeria-Cameroon joint commission presented the appropriate framework for cooperation. It was also an effective instrument for implementing decisions to ensure the execution of joint projects and the solving of conflicts arising from different interpretations of the rights of each country. The Cameroonian leader also emphasized that there was no problem which cannot be solved by peaceful means. It was his hope that his visit would serve as a true reflection of the determination of both countries to reboost and further strengthen through exemplary cooperation the age-long ties that were knotted by history, geography, historical, and cultural affinities of the peoples. President Biya said that it would also be a manifestation of the need to maintain good political, economic, and cultural relations with other countries on the basis of mutual esteem, friendly cooperation, and mutual benefits.

Tomorrow President Biya will lay a wreath at the Tafawa Balewa Square cenotaph before visiting the Center for Black and African Arts and Civilization at the National Theater. Another round of talks will be held between the two presidents later in the afternoon before a state banquet in honor of the president.

Shagari Stresses Peace in 'Studio Interview'

AB191300 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The Federal Government is committed to the maintenance of peace to ensure political and economic stability. This is because without peace there can be neither progress nor development. Answering questions from journalists from all parts of the country during a studio interview, President Shehu Shagari declared that his government would do all in its power to ensure individual freedom and safety as well as national security.

On the green revolution, the president stated that only a dishonest Nigerian would claim that he had not benefited from the fruits or the harvest of the program. President Shehu Shagari clarified the position about the recognition of degrees from Indian universities. He said that the Federal Government often sent officers to various institutions all over the world to make assessment of universities based upon which degrees awarded by such institutions were accorded recognition. He stressed that the practice was universal and that the Federal Government had recognized many universities in India.

On the Nigerian-Cameroon crisis, President Shehu Shagari explained that the situation was more grave but that he resisted all pressures to go to war with his brothers because he preferred to settle disputes or misunderstandings through peaceful means. He pointed out that the dispute was over the actual boundary in the sea where both countries were drilling oil. He added that efforts were continuing at finding amicable solutions to the dispute.

President Shehu Shagari also told the journalists that the relationship between Nigeria and her neighbors on the west coast following the expulsion of illegal aliens from Nigeria was cordial. According to the president, this is because Nigeria did not violate any international law or agreement and the true position had been fully explained to the leaders of Ghana, Togo, and Benin.

SENEGAL

Bongo Visit Continues, Comments Reported

AB181447 Dakar Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Excerpts] The president of Gabon and Mrs Omar Bongo left Dakar this morning. As you know, Presidents Bongo and Abdou Diouf held very fruitful working sessions that have contributed to the strengthening of relations between Dakar and Libreville. Speaking to our reporter Dimba Gueye, President Bongo first spoke about Senegalese-Gabonese cooperation:

[Begin recording] [Bongo] Before answering your question, I would first like to express my happiness and that of my wife and the delegation accompanying me to be in Senegal. There is no need to describe the relations between Senegal and Gabon. They

are many and everyone can notice this. [passage indistinct] President Diouf and myself are only strengthening the cooperation between our two countries. You know very well that as soon as President Abdou Diouf assumed power, his first visit was to Gabon. Therefore, after his reelection it is quite normal that I should also be the first president to pay him a visit and take the opportunity to examine problems concerning the cooperation between our two countries. Concerning these problems, I can tell you that within a few hours, we reached an agreement. Everything went on very well and it is with pleasure that we are returning to Gabon.

[Question] Mr President, a much debated issue is that of the forthcoming OAU summit in Addis Ababa. May we know if Gabon will take part and under what circumstances?

[Answer] [passage indistinct] Gabon's conditions are those mentioned in the resolutions of the summit conference in Nairobi. If the conditions given in the resolutions of the Nairobi conference are implemented, Gabon will take part in the OAU summit.

[Question] Are you proposing a candidate for the post of secretary general?

[Answer] I think, yes.

[Question] May we know if Gabon has already made the choice?

[Answer] Yes, we have already made the choice. He is a career diplomat and former minister of state for foreign affairs [words indistinct].

[Question] Can you tell us his name, Mr President?

[Answer] You should know him. [laughter] He is a former minister of state for foreign affairs and he is in my office. I think [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

Joint Communique on Visit

AB191150 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Joint communique issued in Dakar on 18 April at the end of Gabonese President Omar Bongo's visit to Senegal — read by announcer]

[Text] In response to an invitation by the Senegalese President and Mrs Abdou Diouf, His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, president of the Republic of Gabon, and Mrs Josephine Bongo paid a friendly and working visit to Senegal from 15 to 18 April 1983. The Gabonese head of state was accompanied by a high-powered delegation including Jean-Francois Ntoutoume, personal counselor to the president of the Republic and minister in charge of civil and commercial aviation; Louis Gaston Mayula, minister of national education; Mrs Honorine Dossou Naki, secretary of state at the Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; Jean Oyono Essono, secretary of state and secretary general in the president's office; His Excellency Leonard Babinga, Gabonese ambassador to Senegal; Michel (Lofangue), the president's permanent under secretary and several other top-level officials.

The privileged relations existing between the brotherly peoples of Senegal and Gabon, who are attached to noble ideals, and the deep friendship between the two heads of state earned for the president of the Republic of Gabon and his wife as well as the members of their delegation a spontaneous, warm, and enthusiastic welcome. On his arrival in Dakar, the Gabonese head of state expressed his warm congratulations to His Excellency Abdou Diouf on his sweeping victory in the election of 27 February 1983 which provided the Senegalese people an opportunity to express their total adherence to the policy of economic and social development promoted by the Senegalese head of state.

For his part, the Senegalese head of state paid a rousing tribute to the Gabonese head of state, El Hadj Omar Bongo, for the remarkable successes achieved in Gabon in the task of development and reorganization undertaken under his wise leadership in the political, economic, cultural, and social fields for the benefit of the mature and hard-working Gabonese people. His Excellency President Abdou Diouf emphasized these successes during his visit to Gabon in May 1981 in the company of his wife and an important delegation.

During his stay in Dakar, President Omar Bongo had many private discussions with President Abdou Diouf as well as a working session which was also attended by the two delegations. During this important working session, the Senegalese head of state was accompanied by the following personalities: Moustapha Niassa, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; [name indistinct], secretary general of the president's office; Robert Sagna, minister of equipment; Ibrahima Fall, minister of higher education; Iba Der Thiam, minister of national education; Cheikh Hamidou Kane, minister of plan and cooperation; Djibo Ka, minister of information, telecommunications, and relations with the assemblies; Mrs Fambaye Fall Diop, minister delegate in charge of immigrants; His Excellency General Amadou Belally, Senegalese ambassador [to Gabon]; Moustapha Ka, permanent undersecretary in the president's office, as well as several senior officials.

On this occasion, the two parties exchanged views on various aspects of the bilateral cooperation between Gabon and Senegal as well as on the political and economic situation in Africa and the world. Following this session, the two heads of state expressed happiness about the [word indistinct] and effectiveness of the cooperation between Gabon and Senegal and decided to broaden this cooperation by extending it to new fields. In this connection and after a detailed analysis of the positive results achieved in the strengthening of the Gabonese-Senegalese relations, the two heads of state strongly urged the Gabonese and Senegalese Governments to look for and utilize the most appropriate means for the definition and execution of joint actions in various fields. In this regard, the forthcoming meeting in Dakar of the great joint commission for bilateral cooperation will make it possible to prepare a precise program which will demonstrate the durability and solidity of the bonds between the two countries.

Concerning the current political situation in Africa, the two heads of state particularly (?discussed) the crisis affecting the OAU and the situation p[illegible]iling in southern Africa. Concerning

the OAU crisis, the two heads of state expressed great concern about the factors that led to the stoppage of the normal functioning of the organization. They reaffirmed their determination to spare no effort to contribute, together with the other brotherly African states, to the search for the most adequate solutions in strict conformity with the Charter of the OAU and in the superior interest of the African Continent.

Concerning the situation in southern Africa, the two heads of state emphasized the need to work within the framework of the efforts being made by the international community to ensure the application of the UN Security Council's Resolution 435 on Namibia and promised their government's support to the brave liberation movements fighting in the region for human freedom and dignity. In this connection, they expressed their wishes of success to the forthcoming international conference of solidarity with the Namibian people to be held in Paris from 25 to 29 April 1983 under the patronage of the United Nations.

The two heads of state examined the international political situation with particular emphasis on the Middle East problem and questions relating to the safeguarding of peace and security in the world. In the face of this situation, the two heads of state expressed the hope that the international community would find a just solution to conflicts between states on the basis of the priniciple of the peaceful settlement of disputes, noninterference in the internal affairs of sovereign states, and respect for territorial integrity, for people's right to self-determination, and for the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Islamic Conference Organization. They reaffirmed their governments' conviction that a just and lasting peace cannot be achieved without the recognition by the Hebrew state of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people led by their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO, which is headed by Chairman 'Yasir Arafat, and without Israel's evacuation of all the territories it has occupied since June 1967. They expressed their conviction that the safeguarding of world peace and security demands the cessation of the frantic arms race and the establishment of a new and more equitable and human international economic and (?social) order capable of promoting the harmonious development of the Third World countries. In this regard, the two parties agreed to add their efforts to those of their partners to ensure the progressive realization of this major objective.

At the end of this visit, his excellency the president of the Republic of Gabon expressed his deep satisfaction about the results of his discussions with the Senegalese head of state which help to further strengthen the bonds of brotherly, friendly and fruitful cooperation existing between Gabon and Senegal and which constitute a living expression of their solidarity. On behalf of his wife and the Gabonese delegation and in his own name, His Excellency President Omar Bongo expressed his warmest gratitude to His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, his wife, and the Senegalese Government and people for the enthusiastic and brotherly reception accorded them throughout their stay in the Republic of Senegal.

Issued in Dakar on 18 April 1983. [Signed] for the Republic of Senegal: Abdou Diouf; for the Republic of Gabon: El Hadj Omar Bongo. [applause]

Post of Prime Minister Abolished by Cabinet

AB200746 Paris AFP in English 0732 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Dakar, April 20 (AFP) — The Senegalese Cabinet approved a proposal Tuesday abolishing the post of prime minister with the aim of streamlining the administration and giving President Abdou Diouf more direct power. The reform, which was announced by Mr Diouf when he sworn in as president earlier this month after his re-election, will also make the speaker of Parliament, Habib Thiam, a former premier, Mr Diouf's constitutional deputy. The premiership, created in 1970, is presently held by Foreign Minister Moustapha Niasse. The Cabinet also approved a proposal barring government ministers from simultaneously being members of Parliament or holding any other elective office.

TOGO

Upper Voltan President Arrives in Lome

AB182143 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Head of State Major Dr Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo has been in Lome since this morning, the first leg of the tour that will bring him later to Ghana, Benin, and Niger. Our colleague (Sacre Sery Ouedraogo) of the presidential entourage reports on the arrival of President Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo in Lome and the program of his visit.

[Begin recording] After an 8-hour mistake-free flight we landed at the Lome Tokoin International Airport at about 1000. The Togolese head of state, who personally welcomed President Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo, led him to a platform where, after the military salute, they listened to the national anthems. The procession then set out in the direction of the 2 February Hotel, the residence of the Upper Voltan head of state and his entourage. Let us point out that no statements were made at the airport, after the dinner or after the private talks between the two heads of state. [end recording]

More on Ouedraogo Visit

AB192126 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] President Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo of Upper Volta, who is expected to leave our country tomorrow, today continued the activities within the framework of his working and friendly visit to Togo. Tonight he will be guest of honor at a gala dinner hosted by General Gnassingbe Eyadema, the founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally. This afternoon, a working session was held between the 7-member Upper Voltan delegation led by Foreign Minister Michel Kafando, and an 11-member Togolese delegation led by Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Akakpo-Ahianyo. The two delegations exchanged views on a number of matters of common interest. Early in the morning, Presidents Ouedraogo and Eyadema held private talks before visiting the Lome ports authority.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Replaces Minister, Deputies

MB210809 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] We now read you seven decrees from the Presidency of the Republic:

In the interest of good service and using powers conferred upon me by paragraph D of Article 53 of the Constitution, I relieve Comrade (Mario Nelson Cardoso Macimile) of the post of deputy minister of planning, to which he had been appointed by Decree No 6/81 of 11 November 1981. The Office of the President of the People's Republic of Angola, Luanda, 20 April 1983

In the interest of good service and using powers conferred upon me by paragraph D of Article 53 of the Constitution, I relieve Comrade Manuel Alves dos Passos Barroso Mangueira of the post of minister of construction, to which he had been appointed by Decree No 66/80 of 7 July 1980. The Office of the President of the People's Republic of Angola, Luanda, 20 April 1983

In the interest of good service and using powers conferred upon me by paragraph D of Article 53 of the Constitution, I relieve Comrade (Amilcar Paquete Aguiar) of the post of deputy minister of construction for construction material, to which he had been appointed by Decree No 102/80 of 12 September 1980. The Office of the President of the People's Republic of Angola, Luanda, 20 April 1983

Using powers conferred upon me by paragraph D of Article 53 of the Constitution, I appoint Comrade (Jorge Henriques Varrela de Melo Dias Flora) to the post of minister of construction. The Office of the President of the People's Republic of Angola, Luanda, 20 April 1983.

Using powers conferred upon me by paragraph D of Article 53 of the Constitution, I appoint Comrade Joaquim Lourenco Mateus Mato to the post of deputy minister of construction for construction material. The Office of the President of the People's Republic of Angola, Luanda, 20 April 1983

Using powers conferred upon me by paragraph D of Article 53 of the Constitution, I appoint Comrade Joao Filipe Martins to the post of deputy minister of education for higher and university education. The Office of the President of the People's Republic of Angola, Luanda, 20 April 1983

In the interest of good service and under the terms of No 3 of Article 33 of Decree No 25-A/80 of 1 April, I appoint with immediate effect Comrade Jose Leitao da Costa Silva to the post of the acting secretary of the president for judicial affairs. The Office of the President of the People's Republic of Angola, Luanda, 20 April 1983

We have just read seven decrees from the Presidency of the Republic signed by Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

AFP Bureau Chief Ordered To Leave Country

MB201308 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] A communique from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs released in Luanda today says that Jean-Luc Porte, chief of the AFP Bureau in Angola, has been ordered to leave the territory of the People's Republic of Angola not later than 23 April. Jean-Luc Porte has been declared persona non grata because during his stay in Angola he was involved in activities contrary to his status which were noticed by the legal bodies of the People's Republic of Angola, the communique says. The decision has been reported to the French Embassy in Luanda.

Defense Minister Leaves for Bulgaria 19 April

AB201217 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] The Angolan minister of defense, Colonel Maria Tonha Pedale, yesterday left Luanda for Sofia, Bulgaria, on the first leg of his tour which will take him to Hungary and Czechoslovakia, at the invitation of the defense ministers of the two countries of the socialist community. Before departure, the Angolan defense minister said that his visit was with the objective of consolidating the already existing friendship relations between the two sides. The visit is also in connection with the coordination of efforts carried out by the People's Republic of Angola and the countries of the socialist community in the common struggle against imperialist forces.

UN Group Seeks Witnesses to RSA Aggression

MB210917 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] The delegation of the UN special committee against apartheid, which is visiting frontline states to investigate crimes committed by the racist Pretoria regime and to ascertain the needs of these countries, yesterday in Luanda began talks with an Angolan delegation led by our government's foreign affairs minister, Comrade Paulo Jorge.

Also yesterday, the UN delegation, which is being led by Mohamed Sahnun, Algeria's permanent UN representative, held a meeting with Comrade Diogenes Boavida, the Angolan minister of justice. During this meeting, the UN delegation expressed the concern of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, over the continuing, systematic, and premeditated acts of aggression carried out by the racist Pretoria regime against frontline states, particularly against the free and sovereign territory of the People's Republic of Angola.

During the meeting, the UN delegation was briefed on our government's concern over South Africa's immunity from public opinion in several parts of the world, more precisely, in Western countries, despite its acts of aggression.

The delegation also visited the Armed Forces museum, where it was briefed on the history of the Angolan people in their struggle against Portuguese colonialism and, thereafter, against the puppets at the service of imperialism.

The day before yesterday, Mohamed Sahnun, who leads the delegation of the UN special committee against apartheid, said shortly after his arrival in Luanda that our country suffers the most from the cruelty of the racist South African regime. The Algerian diplomat also said that his delegation's visits to frontline states are a followup of the visit made by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, during which he expressed the international community's concern over the situation prevailing in the southern region of the African Continent. Mohamed Sahnun considered the visit by the UN mission to our country as extremely important inasmuch as it was in Angola where, 2 years ago, the apartheid regime intensified its aggression by launching a violent invasion. He also expressed the UN delegation's desire to obtain, with the cooperation of the Angolan authorities, as many witnesses as possible to the acts of aggression against the free territory of Angola.

We would like to remind you that the UN special committee against apartheid has already visited Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Zambia, and Botswana.

COMOROS

Plans for Links With South Africa Denied

AB201237 Paris AFP in English 1048 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Moroni, April 20 (AFP) — The Comoro Islands today categorically denied reports that they are on the point of establishing diplomatic relations with South Africa. Commenting on reports broadcast earlier this week by Radio France International, Comoran Foreign Minister Said Kafe "vigorously protested and categorically rejected" the allegations which he said had no foundation and were intended to denigrate his country's reputation. The Comoros had "no intention of establishing diplomatic links with Pretoria," he said. Mr Kafe said that the Comoros would continue to respect its commitments regarding the Organization of African Unity, the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference and other international organizations which have condemned the apartheid regime.

At present Malawi is the only OAU member to have such relations, but Pretoria has increasingly strengthened its links with the Indian Ocean archipelago formerly ruled by France.

MOZAMBIQUE

Senior Resistance Leader Shot Near Pretoria

MB211021 Umtata Capitol Radio in English 1000 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] South African police are investigating the fatal shooting of a senior member of the Mozambique resistance movement [MNR]. Orlando Cristina was shot to death in the Pretoria area at the weekend. Cristina is believed to be the secretary general and second in command of the anti-Frelimo MNR movement. Police media liason officer Chris Coetsee has confirmed that an investigation into Cristina's death has been launched. Coetsee says no arrests have been made, and no further details about the shooting are available. Cristina has apparently been living in South Africa for the past 3 years. The MNR is said to be backed by South Africa, a charge the Pretoria government has persistently denied.

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha: No Referendum Before Drought Ends

MB201649 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1550 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] House of Assembly, April 20, SAPA — The prime minister, Mr P.W.Botha, today ruled out the possibility of a referendum on the Constitution before an easing of the severe drought. Speaking during his vote in the budget debate he said he was not prepared to force a referendum on the country while the drought persisted.

"My very background dictates to me that I cannot subject the nation to a referendum at this stage."

"I shall wait with the referndum in the hope and faith that conditions will improve."

A referendum would also not be held before the lengthy and tedious process of the registration of voters was completed. The prime minister said he would subject himself to the outcome of the referendum, whatever it might be. If the people voted "yes" in the referendum it would indicate their wish for peaceful co-existence. "If the people say 'no,' however, it would indicate that they wish to steer the country into a cul-de-sac.

"People with courage and faith will vote 'yes' but if they are in the minority South Africa will go on a road of doubt."

Mr Botha said the leader of the opposition should state clearly which way he was going to recommend his party to vote because the Progressive Federal Party [PFP] would also be affected. There would be lots of time to discuss the government's guidelines for a new constitution as Parliament would sit until legislation in this regard was completed.

"The leader of the opposition can prepare himself for a winter sitting." After the legislation was presented to Parliament it would go to the select committee on the Constitution where it would again be thoroughly debated. Mr Botha said that if the Coloureds and Indians wanted referendums they would get them, but this would be decided after consultation with them. He had said on previous occasions that a referendum would be held if the government's new constitutional guidelines differed drastically from the National Party's 1977 proposals and a referendum on those grounds was therefore unnecessary. He had not, however, ruled out a referendum on other grounds.

As far as the new Constitution was concerned, this was a long process because it was not only the Constitution that was affected

but other laws as well. The government was using the opportunity to formulate its guidelines and its legal advisors were completing the process.

Mr Botha could not understand why the opposition was adamant that the legislation should be made known before the May 10 by-elections as that was not the date of the referendum. The main reason for the referendum was that the new guidelines would differ sharply from the Westminister system, and it was therefore only right to consult the public. "I offer the leader of the opposition and every member of this House the opportunity to submit to the government reccomendations as to what they feel the question or questions should be. "But the decision lies with the goverment because it rules the country."

Dr Slabbert should divide his party into two sections so that they could put different questions and then there should be a special question for Mr Harry Schwarz (PFP Yeoville) so that he could vote yes and no at the same time, Mr Botha said.

Mr Botha said that adaptions or reform in South Africa should be evolutionary. Coloured and Indian leaders would be consulted about a date to test their peoples' opinion, and if they chose to do this by way of a referendum it would be done. "The choice for everyone is clear: boycott or participation in the process of self-determination and devolution of power."

The Indians also had a number of choices, Mr Botha said:

— They could opt for the status quo,

— They could opt for being included in Kwazulu, or

— They could follow the guidelines as set out by him.

Referring to the rights of Indians in the free state he said the interests of the free state should be discussed with the leader in that province whom it was only right should decide for themselves on the issue.

A prime minister of South Africa had to keep many things in mind and part of his responsibility was for that section of the people who were represented in Parliament. "I am not prepared to walk the road of chaos," Mr Botha said.

Banned Journalist, Three Others Get Jail Terms
MB201332 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1118 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Johannesburg, April 20, SAPA — Banned journalist Joe Tholoe, was jailed for two-and-a-half years today after being convicted by a Johannesburg magistrate of possession of banned Pan Africanist Congress literature. Tholoe appeared with three other men: Siphy Moffat Ngcobo 29, who was also sentenced to two-and-a-half years imprisonment on the same charge; and Nhlanganiso Sibanda, 26, and Steven Sipho Mzolo, 21, who were each jailed for three years. They all pleaded guilty to the charge following the acquittal on terrorism act and internal security act charges earlier this week.

Tholoe was found in possession of a book titled "The New road."

Passing sentence, the magistrate, Mr T.Kleinhans, said the men had committed a serious offence. Although he regarded them as first offenders, the gravity of the offence did not warrant a suspended sentence. He said he took into consideration that Tholoe was married and had two children, aged eight and 10. Mzolo suffered from asthma and had contracted stomach ulcers during his detention.

Mr Kleinhans added: "The court also considers the fact that you spent about 10 months in detention before the trial began. You also pleaded guilty to the charge, but it was not an easy task for me to arrive at this decision to pass sentence.

ZIMBABWE

Students Support Mugabe in Denouncing Ministers
MB201657 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] More than 1,000 students from the University of Zimbabwe today denounced government ministers alleged to be misusing their public offices to amass personal wealth. The students marched through Harare pledging their support for the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, and socialism. On the eve of the third anniversary of Zimbabwe's independence the prime minister told a lucheon in Harare that some leaders preached socialism while they practiced capitalism. Comrade Mugabe said bourgeois tendencies have manifested themselves in some unscrupulous councillors, mayors, and some Cabinet ministers who have acquired huge properties.

Minister: No Mercenaries in National Army
MB210742 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] A government minister has dismissed allegations by the fugitive leader of ZAPU, Mr Joshua Nkomo, that the Zimbabwe National Army has engaged mercenaries. The minister of state in the prime minister's office responsible for defence, Comrade Sekeremayi, said soldiers in the National Army speak different languages because they were trained in a number of countries. In the latest issue of the American magazine NEWSWEEK, Mr Nkomo had alleged that Swahili-speaking mercenaries had been recruited in our National Army.

'Radio Truth' Predicts Collapse of Economy
MB201256 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 1700 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Although it cannot be appreciated at the moment, the Zimbabwe economy is now at a crisis point and will reach collapse in mid-1984. The state of collapse of the economy can be blamed on many factors, but mainly the regime in Harare andthe drought are at fault. The policies undertaken by the

government in terms of employer-employee relationships, dismissal, work burdens, and trade unionism are all the result of the muddled thinking at party and government level.

The move undertaken more than a year ago to drive white farmers from the land through the use of squatters, has borne fruit, and today there are hundreds of former commercial farms operating as uneconomic peasant farms. The drought has been the final straw for many of the many commercial farmers, and the maize crop this year will be less than half of last year's crop, which was, itself, very poor. A good tobacco crop is at present being auctioned in Harare, but at lower than average world prices, and an expected demand by the regime for an increase in farm workers' wages, will mean tobacco farms will be running almost at a loss.

At present Zimbabwe has enough stored mealie meal to feed its people next year, but unless there is a bumper harvest next year, there will be nothing left for the average Zimbabwean to eat. Most of the beef raised by the Matabeleland farmers has been slaughtered to prevent animals dying of thirst. All well and good, but where will our beef come from next year, and what will it cost?.

It is a good thing that the former mayor of Gweru, the bully, Patrick Kombay, and 10 of his crooked councillors have been dismissed. However, a question that immediately comes to mind is, why did it take the regime so long to decide to dismiss these people? Everyone in the country, and particularly in Gweru itself know of the activities of this gang of thieves, and it has been common knowledge for many, many months. Why was nothing done earlier to stop their activities, and now that they have been dismissed, are they going to be charged before the law for their crimes, or is this another case of ZANU-PF protecting its own?

Zimbabwe is celebrating its third year of independence with rallies, meetings, and parties. It is our responsibility to point out that we had 3 years of ZANU-PF, at present being celebrated as happily as it might be, particularly in Matabeleland. The regime has gone to great lengths to play up the fact that thousands of frightened, intimidated Matablele are abandoning ZAPU for ZANU-PF, another step in the process of bringing in a one-party state. Since we don't see anything to celebrate in our country, after 3 years of oppressive ZANU-PF rule, we will not mention it again in this news bulletin.

Following the dismissal of the mayor of Gweru and 10 councillors, there are rumors in Zimbabwe that the mayor of Mutare, Councillor (Davidson Mtshawe) is to be dismissed. The information comes after reports that (Mtshawe's) debt in 1982 was more than 570,000 dollars, and a large part of that debt is unaccounted for. (Mtshawe) has tried to raise the rent for each housing in [word indistinct], but rate payers have refused to pay the higher rate. The World Bank have urged Mutare council to work closely with the Ministry of Finance in Harare to try to reduce this huge gap.

UN Delegation Head on RSA Destabilization Acts
AB200915 Paris AFP in English 0835 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] Harare, April 19 (AFP) — A United Nations anti-apartheid committee delegation has left here for Angola to investigate destabilisation activities by South Africa against its black-ruled neighbours. The leader of the seven-man delegation, Mohammed Sahnoun, Algeria's permanent representative at the United Nations, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE before he left yesterday that the mission's final report could facilitate a total oil embargo being imposed on South Africa.

The fact-finding mission, set up by the U.N. General Assembly in December, has already visited four frontline states — Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Botswana — and at the end of next month will investigate in Mozambique, Lesotho, Swaziland, and the Syechelles.

The white minority South African Government has a different destabilisation strategy for each of its neighbours, according to Mr. Sahnoun. "In Zimbabwe, for example, this strategy is more subtle. There is no direct physical aggression as in Lesotho or Angola, but psychological warfare in order to prove that it is not possible to set up a multi-racial society."

Mr. Sahnoun notably mentioned the December 1981 attack which destroyed the headquarters of the ruling ZANU Party, South African training of opponents of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's regime, and the creation of a climate of insecurity in Zimbabwe's white community by murders of white farmers. He also noted that South Africa exerts economic pressures on Zimbabwe, and that for example, last December's sabotage of the Zimbabwe-Mozambique pipeline was carried out to force Zimbabwe to use south African rail links and to deal with Pretoria at ministerial level.

The delegation head also said he was convinced by arguments put forward by Zambian leaders, quoting the sabotage of installations near the Namibian border, South African planes flying over Zambian territory, and a South African radio station broadcasting in the Losi language — not forgetting the sabotage of the Benguela Railway line linking landlocked Zambia with Angolan ports, and South African infiltration of dissident movements, he added. Mr. Shanoun said that he would ask the General Assembly to send modern transmitters to Lusaka to counter "the South African propaganda machine."

The fact-finding mission has a triple mandate, according to Mr. Sahnoun. The mission is to publish facts likely to stir "certain countries" such as the United States and Britain, and to convince more countries to give ecnomic aid to the nine member states of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference seeking to limit their economic dependency on Pretoria.

The mission's third objective is to facilitate oil santions against South Africa, a question which is being discussed this year by OPEC in New York. Mr. Sahnoun said that such an embargo is easier to impose than overall sanctions, and in spite of Pretoria's oil reserves and its alternative sources of supply, South African "military activities" would be hit by such a move.